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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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INSIDE



Golf Classic

Registrations continue to roll in for the 2nd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic.

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Gadhafi MIA

Moammar Gadhafi's wife and three of his children flee to Algeria.

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Destinu Peru

Saipan International School students visit Peru in a fast-paced journey.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 18

Historic CPI gauges separate prices on Saipan, Tinian, Rota

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the first time in CNMI history, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were separately surveyed for basic consumer goods' prices that can be used to justify, among other things, the

need for increased food stamp assistance for residents of Rota and Tinian where rice, eggs, chicken, and other goods are higher than those on the main island of Saipan.

Results of those surveys are now part of the newly released Department

of Commerce's Consumer Price Index report for the fourth quarter of 2010, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

A 50-lb rice on Rota, for example, costs some \$35 as of end-2010, but the same item cost about \$27 on Saipan and

Tinian.

With the exception of beer, Rota's consumer goods are priced higher than those on Saipan and Tinian.

The report is the result of separate surveys done on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

See HISTORIC on Page 4

WITH A MONTH TO GO BEFORE START OF FY 2012

House fails to pass budget on 1st try

»Members battle over amendments, including Compact-Impact funds

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With only a month to go before the start of fiscal year 2012, the House of Representatives failed to pass yesterday a newly-substituted \$102-million budget bill that drew heated debate among members because of floor amendments.

See HISTORIC on Page 4

Armed man robs poker arcade at knife point

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man armed with a knife tied a 56-year-old male cashier and robbed a poker establishment in Sadog Tasi Monday morning.

Saipan Tribune learned that the suspect took off with an estimated \$2,500 to \$2,700 cash from Capitol Poker during the robbery at 9am.

A surveillance camera reportedly captured the broad daylight robbery. The establishment's owner showed the footage to investigators.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the incident to the media.

The cashier, a Chinese-Korean, told *Saipan Tribune* last night that the suspect, whom he described as possibly a local, was the lone customer at the time.

See ARMED on Page 4

Kilili: Worker rules likely out next week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that the long-awaited Commonwealth-only transitional worker rules will likely be released next week or at least

before Sept. 15.

"I'm certain it would be by Sept 15. I'm hoping it's this week but I don't think so. ... More likely next week," Sablan said during a news conference at his office in Susupe to announce an additional \$1

See HISTORIC on Page 4



REPAIR WORK

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. trades assistant Peter Attao inspects the damaged water pipe in Lower Navy Hill Saturday after the utility agency received reports of water leaks in the area. After two days of work, the water supply was restored to affected customers. See story on Page 3

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORP.

Ex-DPW official gets 5 months prison, 5 months home confinement. **PAGE 2**
Major upgrade for Rota's power grid now underway. **PAGE 3**

Local

Ex-DPW official gets 5 months in prison, 5 months home confinement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former Department of Public Works building code inspector was sentenced yesterday to five months in prison and five months in home confinement for extorting \$200 from a printing press owner.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Vilagomez Manglona directed Thomas S. Salas to report to the U.S. Marshal's Office to start serving his sentence when a federal detention facility is designated for him. After prison, Salas will be placed on supervised release.

Manglona accepted the U.S. Probation Office's report that Salas is unable to pay a fine and required him instead to perform 100 hours of community service.

Salas was also required to pay a \$100 court assessment fee. He is also barred from having any contact with the victim.

Manglona agreed with assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley's statement that graft at any level of government inevitably degrades trust in the system itself. She said that graft is a "nicer word for corruption."

"If members of the public do not trust the system, they will be

less likely to abide by its structures, thus perpetuating a destructive cycle," the judge said, quoting O'Malley.

O'Malley also pointed out that the CNMI community now suffers from such a cycle. "Only strict accountability can interrupt this cycle."

Before the sentence was handed down, Salas told the court that because of his inappropriate action, he shamed his family, the CNMI government, and lost his job. He apologized to the court, his family, the victim, and the people of the CNMI.

"I'm humbly sorry for what I've done," he said.

The sentencing guidelines range was 10 to 16 months prison term. O'Malley had recommended the lowest range—10 months. He asked the court that Salas be made to serve at least half of whatever sentence is imposed by incarceration as opposed to just home confinement.

Attorney David Banes, counsel for Salas, had recommended 10 months in home confinement, saying the defendant is an excellent candidate for rehabilitation.

In May 2011, Salas pleaded guilty to the crime of extortion under color of official right.

According to the indictment, Salas used his position with

DPW to demand bribes from the owner of a printing press in exchange for not imposing building code violation fines.

The FBI arrested Salas on Sept. 7, 2010, after he extorted a total of \$200 cash from the businessman.

O'Malley said the victim stated that he actually lost \$1,720 from Salas and other persons, but that the victim will not pursue the amount.

sue the amount.

The FBI will return to the victim the \$200 cash that the agents recovered from Salas during two payments that led to the defendant's arrest.

Salas is the first person that Manglona sentenced since taking her oath as the new chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

PIC presents \$6K to Guma Esperansa

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan presented yesterday to Guma Esperansa the \$6,000 it raised from Saturday's Palooza event.

PIC general manager Hiro Sugie and resident manager Deidre Halstead presented the donation to Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero and Guma Esperansa manager Laurie Ogumoro.

Halstead said the PIC Saipan staff and management are honored to support Guma Esperansa through their Palooza event.

"We hope this contribution will help Guma Esperansa to continue to provide the essential services and assistance within our community," said Halstead.

Ogumoro said they are thankful to have been chosen as the beneficiary for this year's PIC Palooza.

"We're very thankful to them thinking of us, all the people who bought tickets and all those who went there and enjoyed themselves. We're very, very thankful and glad that it's such a huge success," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ogumoro said the Palooza

event and donation is "a great kickoff" for the 10th anniversary of the CNMI's only shelter for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

She said that Guma Esperansa currently serves 11 women and 13 children.

"They always need something," said Ogumoro. "They need to know that we can always take care of their needs and help these women and children."

While they haven't identified specific projects to which the donation will be used, Ogumoro noted that the shelter has unfunded projects that need funding such as cost of getting birth certificates and other documents or the cost of medicine for victims who don't have insurance.

Ogumoro said that they can also use it to pay their utility bills, which can go as much as \$8,000 a month "and that's even when everything is turned off."

The donation, therefore, is of great help, according to Ogumoro. "We've already exhausted our donation money so it's nice that we kind of replenished it. We're just very grateful to the community for their ongoing support."

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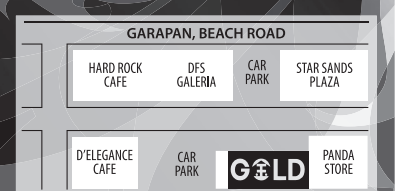


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Major upgrade for Rota's power grid now underway

»\$3.6M grant to fund 2 engines, overhaul of distribution circuits, voltage upgrades

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Rota can soon expect to have reliable power after the approval of three major projects that will finally fix the longstanding power generation problems on the island.

Using CIP grant funds totaling \$3.6 million, CUC will install two 2-megawatt Cummins engines at the Rota power plant, overhaul the Feeder 3 power

distribution circuit, and upgrade the voltage in both Feeders 1 and 2 distribution circuits.

In recent months, power disruptions have taxed and tested the patience of Rota customers because of dilapidated power pole hardware, vegetation contacting high voltage power lines, and unreliable power plant engines.

Rota-CUC deputy director Charles Manglona admits that the unreliable power supply has been the norm on the island for many years and in fact has

worsened in recent months. The Rota power plant had its last major rehabilitation in 2000.

Manglona blamed the island's worsening power problem on the government's cash-flow problem, which has hindered CUC from doing regular maintenance, rehabilitation, and repair work on its equipment.

CUC has only one power plant on Rota, supplying power to customers in Sinapalo and Songsong villages. It has two Cummins engines, a Mitsui en-

gine that needs major overhaul, and a Caterpillar engine, which is only used as an emergency backup. The power plant produces more or less 2.6 megawatts from these units.

CUC expects to ship the two brand-new Cummins engines this week to Rota. Once installed, these engines will increase power production to around 7MW.

This will also allow CUC to overhaul the Mitsui and Caterpillar engines, Manglona said.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC has about 900 customer accounts on island. During emergency power outages, CUC purchases power from the privately-owned Rota Resort power plant at a rate of 51 cents per kilowatt-hour—an amount that Manglona described as expensive.

Meantime, CUC began fixing last weekend the Feeder 3 power distribution circuits, replacing some of the most deteriorated hardware. This project will be ongoing for the next few months. Six linemen from Saipan-CUC will assist Rota.

Areas covered by the Feeder 3 circuit include portions of districts

1 and 2; San Francisco de Borja Street from Songsong Village to Sinapalo area; and Rota International Airport and Chen Chon.

The upgrade of both Feeders 1 and 2 is also expected to begin once two new bucket trucks arrive late next month. This project will change the current voltage from 4.16 kilovolt to 13.8 kilovolt. However, to complete this upgrade, CUC has to schedule power outages for safety purposes. Manglona said the outage schedule will be known once the bucket trucks arrive.

Feeder 1 includes the power plant, Liyo Housing, district 3 to Teneto; Feeder 2 includes portions of districts 1 and 2 and Annex F.

CUC fixes damaged pipe in Lower Navy Hill

A seven-man crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. worked around the clock Friday and Saturday to replace a damaged main water pipe in Lower Navy Hill.

Led by water operations supervisor Tim Scheidt and trades

Water outage scheduled for Sadog Tasi and Puerto Rico

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled today, Aug. 31, an 11-hour water outage in Sadog Tasi and Puerto Rico that will last from 8am to 6pm.

The purpose of this outage is to allow the contractor, American International Corp., to perform main service connections. This project is part of the CUC Well Isolation Project.

The water outage will affect residents living along Puerto Rico Drive, Manilao Drive, Sadog Tasi Drive, Pilla Drive, and Rasaki Way, as well as the CUC Water Division Office in Puerto Rico, the CUC Lab, and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This project will eliminate direct feed wells in these affected areas and reroute the water collected to the Puerto Rico tank, ensuring a more efficient and consistent water service in area.

The CUC Well Isolation Project is an islandwide project currently being carried out by CUC.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that travelers on Sadog Tasi Drive take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (CUC)

Hidden Beach gets red flag

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Hidden Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from Hidden Beach had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

technician Glenn Villagomez, the project was completed late Saturday night, restoring water supply to customers in the area early Sunday.

The team was dispatched immediately after receiving reports of the leak, which was found on the main water line that serves residents of Lower Navy Hill across the Tinian and Rota Guest House.

A backhoe was used to unearth five feet of dirt to expose the 20-foot pipe. Further assessment of the 8-inch pipe also revealed an

18-foot long crack on its side.

According to Villagomez the crack was the result of the pressure of water traveling through the pipes.

"When the water travels through the pipe it causes vibrations. The vibration causes the pipe to rub against the rocks. This constant rubbing, especially if there are small loose rocks underneath the pipe, usually causes the cracks. In this case, there was a huge rock next to the pipe," said Villagomez.

CUC urge the general public

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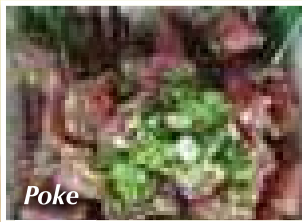
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Fund proposes 4 scenarios in cutting members' benefits

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund wants the court to consider the strategies presented by its actuarial consultant, Buck Consultants, on how to reduce the benefits paid to members in order to save the pension system.

"The proposed Buck scenarios involve a reduction in Fund payments to beneficiaries, not a reduction in benefits owed by the government. The government will still be liable and responsible for the difference between what the Fund paid and what the government promised and, if the government chooses to do so, could pay the difference out of its operating budget, as it will have to do if and when

the Fund runs out of assets to pay benefits," Fund legal counsels Viola Alepuyo and Brad-dock J. Huesman stated in a 22-page filing made Friday.

They pointed out that reducing Fund payments would have the primary effect of lengthening the life of the program. They favor an option that will cut benefit amounts across-the-board.

Buck Consultants had suggested four strategies that the Fund could use to reduce the program's liabilities:

1. Eliminate the cost-of-living-allowance, COLA, and all future disability benefits;

2. A 10-percent cut in benefits on top of eliminating COLA and disability benefits;

3. A 25-percent cut in benefits in addition to stopping COLA

and disability benefits; and

4. A 50-percent cut in benefits plus elimination of COLA and disability benefits.

Under these differing scenarios, eliminating just the COLA and disability benefits will extend the program's life by just a year, the Fund said.

If the second scenario is followed, the pension program's lifespan is projected to last until 2017. If the court adopts the third option, the Fund said that the program may last up to 2020.

The Fund said the fourth option will enable the Fund to become "fully funded."

"This would have the effect of making the Fund actuarially sound or fully funded for the benefits it was currently respon-

sible for. This means that all beneficiaries would receive at least 50 percent of what they were promised by the government," explained the Fund counsels.

Additionally, they said, current and recently retired employee contributions would be fully protected under the fourth option.

"It is important to reiterate, however, that the total amount the government owes the retirees would not change. In other words, accrued benefits would not be adjusted. The amount the Fund must distribute, however, would be. Thus, current and future beneficiaries would receive less money and benefits directly from the Fund, but they would not be owed less by the government," they added.

Kilili: Another \$1M for CNMI food stamps

The Commonwealth will receive another \$1 million for its local food stamp program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan yesterday.

The extra funding comes as a result of the commitment made to Sablan by Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Audrey Rowe at a congressional hearing five weeks ago. The money may only be used for benefits; none may go to administrative costs.

"Ms. Rowe called this morning to let me know that she was following through on her commitment to me to address the food stamp shortfall in the Northern Marianas," Sablan said. "The Food and Nutrition

Service is increasing the food stamp block grant for fiscal year 2012 by \$1 million. So, instead of the current \$12.148 million, we will be getting \$13.148 million."

Sablan said the extra money will help to keep the benefit levels up. "And if there are people who haven't applied because they heard there was a wait-list, this should encourage them to come in and register for help," he added.

Sablan pointed out, though, that the "real goal" is to get the Northern Marianas into the national Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, "so we don't have to go begging whenever economic conditions in our islands force more people to need help getting food."

HOUSE

From Page 1

The House went into several session breaks from morning to late afternoon, only to go into recess until 10am today to decide on a pending amendment.

"We will try to pass it [Wednesday]," House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said in an interview.

House passage of a budget bill came earlier last year—on Aug. 18. Because the House and Senate became deadlocked, the government partially shut down last year. Over 1,000 government employees were out of job for days until the Legislature finally passed a budget that the governor signed into law.

Three of four floor amendments were already adopted yesterday.

They included Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) floor amendment, and that of Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) capping the number of positions funded by House members' allocation from 100 to only 45.

The total amount of House members' allocation, however, remained at over \$1.031 million.

Demapan said more than half of these positions are not filled anyway because lawmakers opt to have independent contractors rather than hire full-time employees.

Other floor amendments are expected to be introduced and debated on today.

'Unbalanced budget'

In yesterday's session, the speaker described one of the floor amendments as creating an "unbalanced budget" and asked members to reconsider their vote.

He later called them to his conference room.

When the House leadership members went back to the chamber, seven changed their votes from either "abstain" or "yes" to no, defeating Rep. Ray Yumul's (R-Saipan) second amendment by a vote of 9-10 with one absence.

Yumul's proposed amendment seeks to give portions of the \$1.93 million in expected Compact Impact money to three other agencies—Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and Joeten/Kiyu Public Library—in addition to the only five agencies that are supposed to receive these federal funds.

Cabrera, during the session, said the money that these five agencies will receive from Compact Impact reimbursements are already included in the \$102

million budgetary resources available for appropriation and reducing them will result in an "unbalanced budget."

"This unbalanced budget—it will be unfair to send it to the Upper House," Cabrera said, right after voting "no" to Yumul's second amendment.

Only Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) was absent among 20 members.

As expected, Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) introduced yesterday a substitute version of the budget bill he had introduced Friday, but the changes didn't affect most of the appropriations for government agencies and programs.

Yumul's first floor amendment yesterday was adopted by the House by a vote of 18-0 with one abstention.

That amendment seeks to

exclude PSS and NMC from a needed certification of funds from the Department of Finance when agencies want to hire or enter into contract with any entity.

Education request

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and other education officials were in the House chamber yesterday.

They asked the House for some \$106,000 more so that PSS can meet the maintenance-of-effort requirement by the U.S. Department of Education.

Under Basa's House Bill 17-215, House Substitute 1, PSS and the Board of Education will only get \$28,081,200, which is short of some \$106,000 to comply with the MOE requirement.

NMC has also asked for a budget of at least \$5.2 million, but the House's budget bill only gives the college over \$4.018 million.

La Fiesta

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) offered a floor amendment yesterday to the substitute bill, increasing the personnel budget for the Legislative Bureau from \$911,617 to \$1,111,617.

Deleon Guerrero also sought to significantly reduce the annual \$200,000 lease payment for the La Fiesta property, to only \$2,000, and give the difference to the Legislative Bureau.

But House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said that taking away money from lease payment means the CNMI government is renegeing on its contractual obligation and might have legal consequences.

The speaker said the leadership will consult with its legal counsel and the administration on this, and called for a recess around 5pm yesterday.

HISTORIC

From Page 1

starting in the first quarter of 2010.

For years, surveys of basic consumer goods were only done on Saipan. They did not consider the higher prices on Rota and Tinian.

The report says "there is no great deal of difference noticed between Saipan and Tinian" prices "although Saipan does tend to be slightly lower on most occasions for the items selected."

"On the other hand, it is noticeable that Rota is more expensive for a majority of items analyzed, with the exception of beer," it says.

Based on a 2010 survey, a can of beer was averaging \$1.27, less expensive than a can of beer on Tinian for over \$1.31 or on Saipan at almost \$1.30.

Commerce collected price data from roughly 170 retail outlets on Saipan, 30 on Tinian, and 60 on Rota.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the release of the CPI report is "welcome news," and he looks forward to

seeing the actual report.

Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) had said that Rota residents need more food stamp assistance but couldn't ask for more funds from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs until a recalculated CPI is done.

Now that the latest Commerce report showing separate price surveys for the three islands is out, the Rota delegation looks forward to improved food stamp assistance for residents not only of Rota but also of Tinian.

Acting Commerce secretary

Sixto Igisomar, in a phone interview yesterday, said the newly-released report is more narrative than the previously issued reports.

"I'm happy that it's released and I am pushing for the release also of the first and second quarter 2011 reports," he said.

Igisomar thanked Commerce's Central Statistics Division personnel on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota "for getting this survey and report off the ground" and asked them to continue their support for the project.

"This report will be very helpful especially for food stamps

assistance. It shows the public the price changes on the three islands, and the disparity of the prices between these islands. It's more than a CPI, because a CPI can only tell you variances. This report tells you the actual prices. I have confidence in the report that it will help more people," he said.

Price comparisons

Commerce did a comparison of prices for selected items across the three main islands of the CNMI for the fourth quarter of 2010.

"The items were chosen based on their significance to household expenditure, as well

as the feasibility to compare the items suitably across the three islands," Commerce says.

There were nine specific items surveyed on Saipan, Tinian and Rota: a 50-lb bag of rice, a can of corned beef, a pound of chicken, a dozen eggs, a pound of onions, a can of Coke, a can of beer, a gallon of gasoline, and a pack of Doral cigarettes.

An 11.5-oz corned beef, for example, costs almost \$4 on Rota, but was only over \$2.50 on Saipan and Tinian in the fourth quarter of 2010.

A dozen eggs on Rota was over \$3.50, but was only over

KILILI

From Page 1

million in CNMI food stamp funding for fiscal year 2012 as a result of his request to U.S. Food and Nutrition Services administrator Audrey Rowe. *See related story on Page 4.*

Sablan said the U.S. Depart-

ment of Homeland Security will send a team to the CNMI after Sept. 15 to do outreach on the CW rule.

He said one of the things he has asked DHS is to include "caretakers" among those to be covered by the CW rule.

Sablan said the CNMI has lots of elderly, children, and other community members who need

caretakers or companions who are not necessarily nurses. He said the lack of nursing homes on the islands requires caretakers for the elderly.

"I'm pleading with DHS to include caretakers under CW regulations because initially they don't have plans to [cover them]," he added.

Sablan said those eligible to

apply for H visas "should start planning for H visa that's why we need the prevailing wage survey. The [Saipan] Chamber of Commerce is working hard on that."

He also said that by now, CNMI employers should already determine "how many employees they need" and "how many they can afford."

Sablan reiterated yesterday that

not clear whether police have made an arrest.

It was the third armed robbery at Capitol Poker since April 2004.

On April 29, 2004, two men brandishing a gun attempted to rob the poker arcade. The sus-

pects failed to get any money, but one of them shot and injured two of the establishment's employees.

The two suspects were later arrested and convicted in federal court.

On Good Friday in 2008, a

man staged a broad daylight robbery at Capitol Poker. The sister of the poker owner was hurt when the suspect assaulted her in the bathroom.

The suspect was subsequently arrested and convicted in federal court.

ARMED

From Page 1

The suspect was playing poker when he called the cashier about a problem with the machine.

As the cashier was checking the machine, the suspect suddenly pulled a knife, grabbed him from behind, and pointed it at his neck.

The suspect then dragged the cashier to the cashier's booth and tied the victim's

Ex-convict back in prison, this time for stealing bush cutter

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Ian M. Dela Cruz, a 27-year-old man who has prior criminal convictions, among them his involvement in the killing of a 13-year-old boy in 1998, is back in prison, this time for stealing a bush cutter and violating his probation in two previous cases.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja ordered Dela Cruz to serve a total of one year in prison for all

three cases.

Dela Cruz pleaded guilty to theft as part of a plea deal; the remaining charges of burglary and resisting arrest were dropped.

In the theft case, Naraja sentenced Dela Cruz to a year in prison, all suspended except for nine months. In the two previous cases, the judge ordered Dela Cruz to serve three months, which will run consecutively with the nine-month prison term for the theft case.

HPO to announce 3 vacancies

The Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is set to announce three vacancies that need to be filled by qualified individuals.

Established under Public Law 3-39, HPO aims to ensure the identification and protection of significant archaeological, historic, and cultural resources in the Commonwealth; educate the public about local history, archaeology, culture and historic preservation; and develop historic and cultural properties.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao said there is a recently vacated and federally funded staff position on Tinian, which is already being processed for announcement.

The position for historian, meanwhile, remains pending due to insufficient local funds, according to Faisao.

"This [full-time employee] remains at the fate of the ongoing appropriation legislation if the current Legislature will fund [the position] by October 2011," said the secretary.

While the position of archaeologist remains unfilled, DCCA has obtained permission from its grantor office to enter into a contract with a private archaeologist in Guam, Faisao said. DCCA has contracted Victorino April to assist the agency with identified or newly discovered historic properties.

Additionally, Faisao said that April will assist in appropriate identification efforts on historic properties, review of background information, and conduct further studies if necessary.

"Once the announced position is filled, the contract [with April] will cease," said Faisao. (Clarissa V. David)

After completing his sentence, Dela Cruz will be placed on three years probation. He was also directed to pay a \$100 fine, \$100 court fee, \$300 probation fee, and \$300 restitution for damages.

Dela Cruz was also required to complete a counseling course at the Community Guidance Center.

More artists needed for Pacifica exhibit that opens on Labor Day

Some 20 local artists have already signed up for the Cultural Heritage & Arts Pacifica Exhibit but Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog said they are still accepting artists who want to take part in the annual event.

"We are hoping to have more artists join the...exhibit. We're still calling on all our artists to register and we're getting a good response from them," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit, which is free to the public, will open on Sept. 1 at the lobby function room (former RNC Tour office) of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. It will run for the entire month from 9am to 7pm. However, it will be closed on Sundays and during holidays.

The exhibit is one of the three major exhibits organized each year by the Arts Council. The other two are the women's exhibit in March and Christmas exhibit in December.

Hocog remains hopeful that

In his latest case, Dela Cruz stole a bush cutter belonging to Joaquin Blanco on Dec. 30, 2010, on Saipan. Police said that officers responded to a call about a burglary and theft incident at Blanco's residence in Kagman III. While on their way to respond, two police officers saw Dela Cruz carrying a bush cutter. Dela

Cruz ran away, but he was later arrested.

Police learned that Dela Cruz broke into the storage room of the house and stole the bush cutter.

Dela Cruz was one of then three male teenagers who were charged and convicted in the 1998 killing of a 13-year-old boy.

In 2002, Dela Cruz reportedly led three other young boys in breaking into the Mai Thai Store in Susupe where they stole four bicycles.

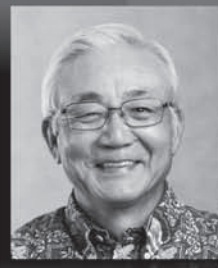
In 2003, he was convicted in two theft cases. In 2005, he was convicted again of theft for stealing items from DFS Galleria and Joeten Enterprises, according to court records.

nized and appreciated," he said.

The public will also have a chance to buy any of the artworks that are part of the exhibit.

Interested artists and art col-

lectors can register for the exhibit at the Arts Council office in Capitol Hill from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, call 322-9982 or 83. (Clarissa V. David)



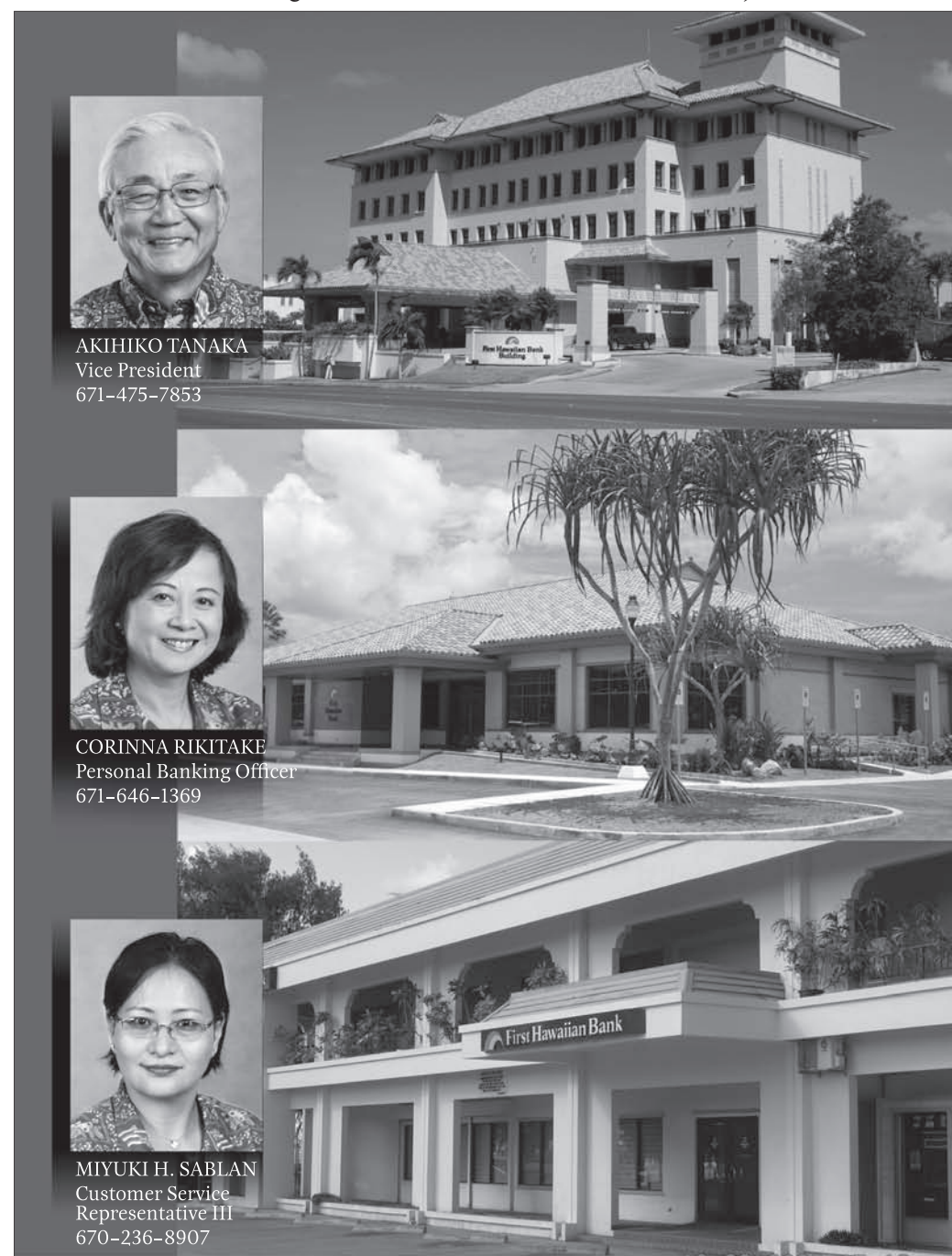
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**Please take
a moment
to take this
simple quiz:**

Question #1:

True or False

1. Having diabetes isn't really a serious problem.

***False: "Diabetes causes more deaths every year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. Two out of three people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke."**

*Source: American Diabetes Association

Why is there only one question on this quiz—do you really need any more?

Diabetes is treatable and getting your eyes examined is very important. Diabetes affects vision dramatically and can lead to permanent vision loss. An eye exam is a simple thing to do and it could be the difference between catching diabetes early and getting treatment, or going blind.



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ISSUES WITH NEW GOP LEADERSHIP SETTLED

Babauta vows to fill all slots for mid-term elections

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Juan N. Babauta, the newly elected president of the CNMI Republican Party, disclosed yesterday that initial concerns raised about the constitutionality of the party's new leadership have been ironed out.

Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the issue was settled after he talked with longtime Republican member Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, who earlier described as "unofficial" the general membership meeting and election of new officers held on July 8 at the Garapan Central Park. Tebuteb raised his concerns in a letter to former party president Juan I. Tenorio, saying he doesn't recognize the

new party leadership, that the GOP bylaws and policies were blatantly disregarded when 1,077 former Covenant Party members were accepted to its fold, and that what happened on July 8 was similar to a hostile takeover under the guise of a merger or transition.

Babauta, a former governor, believes that his conversation with Tebuteb has brought these issues to end.

"I talked to him [Rep. Tebuteb] and he told me that it was not what he meant [as quoted in the paper]. So I guess those issues were settled now," said Babauta.

Saipan Tribune was unable to obtain comments from

Tebuteb yesterday.

Babauta assured yesterday that the GOP will fill all slots in the upcoming midterm polls in November 2012. He disclosed that the party will undergo a "reorganization" and streamlining of its bylaws. Once finalized and adopted by the board and membership, the selection of candidates will come next.

"Once we get our bylaws together, we will begin to look at the candidates. We will fill all slots," he said.

Seats that will be filled in the midterm elections are for House and Senate members whose

terms are expiring and the delegate position.

Babauta emphasized the importance of adhering to the party's bylaws because it identifies the steps that the group must take, especially in terms of candidates' selection and other procedures. The "clarifying process" aims to prevent future problems in the party's procedures, according to Babauta.

He said an announcement will be made once the final list of candidates is ready.

"The party still needs to line up the candidates and we're going through some reorganization. We will go from there," he added.

Babauta himself ran for delegate last year but lost to incumbent Delegate Gregorio

Kilili Sablan.

Besides Babauta, the new GOP board members are Richard Seaman, Ramon "Ray" Salas, Edward Deleon Guerrero, and Rita Chong. The members also

re-elected Roman "Bo" Palacios Jr. as national committeeman and elected Viola Alepuyo as national committeewoman. Alepuyo's term will start in September 2012.

DYS staff in alleged sex case to remain under house arrest

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo denied Monday the Office of the Attorney General's motion to reconsider his order that placed under house arrest a Division of Youth Services staff who allegedly sexually abused a 14-year-old girl at a DYS shelter.

Govendo said there was no evidence produced that suspect Pedro Ilo Sablan violated bail conditions.

Govendo said the allegations that the 62-year-old Sablan was seen driving up and down the street of the alleged victim happened before the suspect's arrest.

The judge even allowed Sablan to be with his 14 grandchildren with the conditions that they are to be watched by adults.

Assistant attorney general Peter Prestley strongly objected, citing the safety of minors and in the interest of justice, but Govendo told him his order stands unless Prestley could produce compelling evidence.

Govendo initially imposed a \$50,000 cash bail when Sablan was arrested on Aug. 9. On Aug. 16, over the government's strong objection, Govendo accepted a \$50,000 property bond in lieu of cash bail and placed Sablan under house arrest, plus many other conditions.

Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal, who filed the motion for reconsideration asking the court to remand Sablan to jail and require him to post a \$50,000 cash bail, said that the government has discovered new information and believes the court will find it of concern.

Neal said that Sablan knows where the victim lives and was seen driving up and down her street about a week after she was placed at this new, undisclosed location.

Neal said that Sablan or his relatives may have been contacting the victim through Facebook.

The prosecutor said that Sablan was arrested after he owned up to allegations that he had sexually abused the girl at a DYS shelter where he was employed.

"The victim in this case suffers from developmental disabilities and was placed in the shelter to keep her safe from neglect, abuse and/or maltreatment," Neal said.

Also, she said, Sablan disabled the security camera recording devices to avoid detection of his criminal acts.

At Monday's hearing, Prestley who appeared for the government, called to the witness stand the caretaker of the alleged victim, who testified that she saw Sablan driving in the area.

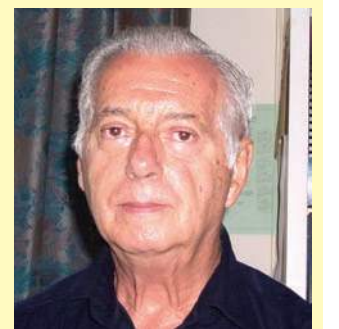
Assistant public defender Matt Meyer, counsel for Sablan, said that no evidence was presented that Sablan violated his bail conditions after being placed under house arrest.

In denying the motion, Govendo, however, reiterated the bail conditions, including no direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim.

"No driving around," Govendo told the suspect.

Govendo also directed the DYS not to allow the alleged victim to use Facebook or a computer. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Anthony Pellegrino, who is celebrating his special day today! Best wishes for a wonderful birthday and another year filled with good health, success, and God's blessing. Happy birthday boss, Grandpa, and Dad.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Leslie Ann Pangelinan Sablan, who is celebrating her special day today, Aug. 31! God bless, enjoy your special day, and may you have many more to come! We love you! Greetings come from Andy John, Riley James, Randall, Mona, Baby Gurl, Kay Kay Holiday, Marissa, Sheila, friends and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 17th birthday to our beautiful daughter, Lani-Nicole Lizama Russell aka To'to. May this day, and everyday, bring you the best blessings someone as special as you deserves. We love you very much! Greetings come from Mom and Dad, Amma and Ampa, and your Lizama, Russell, and Milbery families.

NATIONAL-CNMI
IMPAIRED DRIVING
CRACKDOWN

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

August 19th thru September 5th, 2011

BAM! YOUR
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Drive drunk and you will be
prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



Guma Hustisia's air-conditioning retrofit completed

The Guma Hustisia has received a much needed upgrade to their air-conditioning system thanks to funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's State Energy Program.

The ARRA State Energy Program funding awarded to

the CNMI Division of Energy is focused on promoting the concept of "going green." This project is a great example of incorporating technology to increase energy efficiency, which leads to cost savings for the Commonwealth.

Prior to the retrofit of the air-

conditioning system, readings were taken to gauge the effectiveness of the new units and to measure the cost savings. The initial numbers showed that the Guma Hustisia was using about 130,600 kilowatts a month. Using data provided by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the recent numbers for the month of July showed that the usage has dropped to 104,800 kW. At the current rate of \$.34 per kWh, this means a savings of about \$108,360.00 a year or 20 percent.

New technology was installed as a part of this upgrade, which monitors the time in which each compressor has been working. Once it senses that a particular compressor has been working

longer than the others, it will send a signal to the cold-water chiller to shut that particular compressor off and activate the others. This will allow for the other compressors to work until they are equal in time and the temperature has been satisfied. This will help to provide for a longer lifespan for these compressors and less time between overhauls while ensuring that there is no gap in air-conditioning service within the Guma Hustisia.

Prior to this project, the Guma Hustisia had three separate 110-ton chillers, one of which was inoperable. The inoperable chiller has now been replaced with a new 200-ton oil-free chiller and turbo core compressor. The other two chillers have

received an upgrade to their existing electrical systems in addition to having new refrigerant piping installed. The Guma Hustisia runs a daily building load of 200 tons, which was being met by using the two 110-ton chillers. The new 200-ton chiller has allowed the Guma Hustisia to use one chiller instead of two to meet its daily building load, leading to a savings in utility bills.

"The project is now officially 100-percent complete as of Aug. 17," said project manager Andrew Ashburn of Red Rock LLC. "The courthouse is operating with an energy efficient air-conditioning system for the first time. This ARRA funded project installed three condenser units and a 200-ton chiller."

Staffers have also stated how surprised they are that the system works so well. They also said that they now have a nice cool consistent temperature for working and that the project went very well.

"The CNMI ARRA Office in association with the CNMI Division of Energy is proud to help the CNMI realize the benefits of the State Energy Program," said CNMI ARRA communications manager Fred Camacho. "This project will go a long way to benefit not only the hard working employees of the Guma Hustisia building, but the various members of the community who conduct business there as well." (Office of the Governor)

'CUC is taking action to stop spread of oil contamination at Rota power plant'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said it is committed to preventing any further oil contamination at the Rota power plant.

CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher, in CUC's reply to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's report filed in federal court last week, asserted that the utilities agency has taken immediate action to address the issues at Rota power plant.

"CUC appreciates EPA's involvement and testing at the Rota plant, and has been in regular communication with the on-scene coordinator," said Fisher in the reply filed Saturday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

EPA legal counsel Bradley O'Brien earlier disclosed that EPA investigated the Rota power plant this month for contamination of oil and cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs.

O'Brien had said that samples are currently at the laboratory awaiting analysis, but that a sheen was found along the shoreline adjacent to the facility. Oil—most likely diesel—was present in almost all of the soil borings and groundwater wells installed

at the facility, he added.

In CUC's response, Fisher said the utilities firm is awaiting two new Cummins engines that were ordered last year to replace the old Rota power engines. The engines, she said, were delivered this week to Saipan.

Fisher added that CUC has repaired the leaking roof at the plant and a leaking expansion cooling water tank in the power plant building. CUC is also repairing spare water pumps on Saipan to replace the leaking cooling water pump.

CUC is also in the process of doing an emergency procurement for an oily water separator and will be sending a two-compartment tank from Saipan, Fisher said.

"These immediate actions are the first steps CUC has taken to address the concerns raised by EPA," Fisher said.

She noted that CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae met last week with power plant staff and Rota management by teleconference to address concerns raised by EPA about the Rota plant. Issues of an administrative and managerial nature are also being addressed, she added. (Ferdie de la Torre)

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY 2011 BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

Children across the CNMI are heading back to school. The CNMI Department of Public Safety would like to remind all drivers and pedestrians to be extra careful and vigilant when a new school year starts and throughout the year. Please practice the following safety measures to protect all school aged children:

If You're Walking

We ask students to be extra cautious when walking to and from school. Here are a few tips:

- Pay special attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards.
- Never cross the street against a red light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Wear reflective clothing and bright colors so drivers can see you easier.
- Plan a safe walking route to school. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and if possible, with intersections that have traffic controls.
- Advise children to be ready for their buses and to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the bus.

If You're Driving:

- When a school bus is stopped with the Stop Sign extended from the driver's window you must stop immediately, no matter in what direction you are traveling
- Be very aware when school is back in session as children will be walking to and from schools and bus stops.
- As autumn approaches, there will be less daylight and children will be out early in the morning and more difficult to see.
- Watch for children entering the street from behind buses or running to catch the bus.
- When driving your children to school, drop them off and pick them up as close to the school as is possible.
- Don't leave until they are safely on school grounds.
- Drive slowly when approaching children riding bicycles and walking near the street.
- Watch your speed when entering school zones.

SCHOOL BUSES ARE LIKE TRAFFIC SIGNALS



The CNMI Department of Public Safety wishes everyone a safe school year.

For more safety tips, call 664-9001/9084/85



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- * Child Development and Early Education Theories and practices.
- * Safe and appropriate activities for children.
- * Develop and implement a developmentally appropriate preschool program for young children.
- * Perform other related duties as required.

For interested applicants, please call
234-8008/8004 or bring resumé at 4th Floor,
Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe.

All set for 2nd Docomo Pacific Golf Classic

Registrations continue to roll in at the Docomo Pacific store in Gualo Rai for the 2nd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic this Labor Day Weekend. The tournament date is set for this Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011, at the beautiful LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort with a tee time of 7:30am.

The tournament will consist of the following flights: Men's Championship, A, B, C and Seniors and the Ladies Open. The top 3 scores from each flight will receive cash prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

A bonanza of prizes with an estimated value of \$20,000 will be raffled off. Some of the prizes include room nights and meals at Saipan's finest hotels and restaurants, discount certificates at a variety of local businesses and golf accessories. Docomo Pacific will also be donating quite a few of the latest model phones such as the Blackberry and Samsung Galaxy.

Bank of Hawaii has once again sponsored \$25,000 as a hole-in-one prize and Delta Air Lines has also sponsored roundtrip tickets for two to the U.S. mainland as their contribution for a hole-in-one prize. Pacifica Insurance also sponsored two closest-to-the-pin cash prizes.

The major sponsors this year are DFS Saipan Ltd., Tan Siu Lin Foundation, McDonald's Saipan and Mobil. Special thanks to the Bank of Hawaii, Delta Air Lines, First Hawaiian Bank, Kautz Glass, Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Visitors Authority, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan Shipping Company, DataDot Micronesia, Pacifica Insurance, Triple B Freight Forwarders, and the Marianas Eye Institute.

"This is the second year of hosting the tournament and the responses received from the busi-



James Nelson, Docomo Pacific's general manager, center, is flanked by Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president Lisa San Nicolas, left, and John Sheather, Bank of Hawaii senior vice president.



James Nelson, center, Docomo Pacific's general manager, is flanked by Delta Air Lines representatives Chris Concepcion, left, and Esther Sound.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-DPS/RBS-127 (A)(B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) SETS OF 2-PASSENGERS
PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS – CIF ROTA AND TINIAN FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – BOATING
SAFETY SECTION (ROTA AND TINIAN BRANCH)"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

ness community have been great and we thank all the sponsors and donors for their contributions," said James Nelson, Docomo Pacific's general manager.

"This year, we've lowered the entry fee to \$85," said Nelson, "and golfers who are Docomo Pacific subscribers can enter for only \$75 in appreciation of their commitment to Docomo Pacific. Times are tough, but we must continue to do all we can to support non-profit organizations that have a direct impact on our student community."

Entry forms are available at all golf courses, as well as the Docomo Pacific store on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Submissions of payments are accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort and at Docomo Pacific. The deadline for entries is at 6pm, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011, so golfers are encouraged to enter as soon as possible.

For more information about the tournament, contact James Nelson at (670)483-4215 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com. (*Docomo Pacific*)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-DPS/RBS-128

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) ROLL-UP ALUMINUM DOORS
TO INCLUDE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – BOATING SAFETY
SECTION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

"This Notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"

August 3, 2011

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that NMHC has revised its FY 2011 Annual Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Annual Plan encompasses the goals, objectives, and strategies of NMHC's Program and Housing Division and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). Comments may be directed to:

Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director
NMHC Central Office
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950

Comments may also be faxed to (670) 234-9021. The Annual Plan is also available for public review and comment at NMHC's Central Office located on Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, as well as at the respective NMHC Field Offices on Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except on CNMI holidays. The deadline for the comment period is at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 31, 2000

Bill offers \$10K incentive for construction of water catchment

In a move to encourage residents and businesses to build water catchment system, the government will offer tax incentives of up to \$10,000 under a piece of legislation cleared yesterday by the House of Representatives. These tanks—to be built to catch rainwater—will help in the efforts to conserve groundwater resources, particularly on Saipan where residents are perennially hit with shortage during the dry months, according to lawmakers. Three government agencies had backed the measure sponsored by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho.

OPA: \$31K worth Hopwood equipment missing

Over \$31,000 worth of electronic assets listed for the Hopwood Junior High School has become unaccounted for and is now missing from the school premises, according to a report from the Office of the Public Auditor. Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte blamed the incident to the failure by the Public School System to institute policies and procedures that would have established a complete system of property management accountability. LaMotte said the System also failed to conduct an annual physical inventory of property at PSS schools. "PSS Procurement officials disregarded applicable CNMI policies and procedures. Some PSS facilities are not physically secure."

Aug. 31, 2001

DFW hikes hunting fees

September signals the kick-off for another hunting season. But aside from the usual preparations for the season's most anticipated outdoor activity, hunters are also bracing for new amendments to Hunting Regulations, particularly on hunting license fee hikes for certain types of wildlife. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is forewarning hunters of some changes in the license fee structure which, for some species, has increased to as much as a hundred percent. License permits for Sambar deer and Philippine turtle doves, for example, increased by \$5, making the current fee rate for resident hunters \$10 per permit. DFW Conservation Officer III John M. Manglona explained that the hike in license fees is in tune with laws that mandate the Fish and Wildlife to set aside funds for educational materials and equipment related to fishing and hunting.

Education advocate endorses Fitial

US Rep. Bob Schaffer, Colorado's "Champion of Education Reform", said Speaker Benigno R. Fitial's vision of providing quality education to Commonwealth children will prepare them to the challenges of the 21st century. Rep. Schaffer supports Fitial's bid to become the CNMI governor because he cares about the issue of education, which he said, is "Ben's most important issue, too." Fitial and running mate Education Commissioner Rita Inos believe that the availability of quality education for people of all ages is the key to good paying jobs and higher standard of living. The Covenant Party standard bearers also believe that, in order to provide better educational opportunities, local leaders should aim at developing a stable economy for the Commonwealth.

Aug. 31, 2002

NMC gets no \$10M proposers for Gateway

No financing firm responded to the \$10 million loan solicitation of the Northern Marianas College for its Pacific Gateway project. Outgoing NMC Board chairman Vince Seman said Friday that the Request for Proposal for the loan had closed and that the college received no proposals from any financial group. "Nobody responded," he said, adding that the college was not actually looking for a loan but for financing such as a grant. The NMC published its RFP for the \$10 million loan on July 11 without specifying the purpose for it. The public notice originally set an August 1 submission deadline, but this was extended for about two weeks.

DoF runs after Korean firm for \$160K in taxes

The Department of Finance is running after a Korean construction firm for unpaid tax liabilities totaling over \$160,000. Assistant Attorney General James Livingstone and Deborah Covington yesterday filed with the Superior Court a civil action against Woosung Construction Co., Ltd., a general contractor that performed construction work in the Commonwealth in 1997 and 1998. "Defendant Woosung accrued tax liabilities for the years 1997 and 1998 because of the income it earned and the employees it employed in the Commonwealth," Livingstone said.

Strandings go up as marine ecosystems deteriorate

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The deterioration of the world's marine ecosystems contributes to an increase in marine mammal strandings each year, according to T. David Schofield, regional marine mammal health and response program manager of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service.

"The national statistics show that strandings are increasing each year a little bit. That again speaks to the decline in the health of our oceans because of pollution, fisheries imbalance, probably at some level climate change. It's all related, it's all connected," he said Friday.

Schofield and Dr. Kristi West of the Hawaii Pacific University arrived Wednesday night to do a necropsy on KW2011-016, a Cuvier's beaked whale that stranded itself on Micro Beach on Tuesday and was eventually put down.

Both Schofield and West presented last Friday at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center their preliminary findings from the 13-hour necropsy conducted at the U.S. Islands Seafood facility in Garapan.

According to Schofield, marine mammals strand themselves for a reason "and the reasons are usually multi-faceted"—including disease processes, old age, and anthropogenic or human-related causes.

"What is changing in the health of our oceans and what humans are doing to the oceans is manifested in these marine mammals. When an animal strands, it's kind of a snapshot in time into what is affecting that population or that local ecosystem area," he said.

Schofield emphasized that pushing these stranded or beached mammals back to the ocean is an "inhumane thing to do" as stranding is "often a survival instinct" for these animals.

"It may be a primal instinct for them that when they're debilitated, they run to safety," he said. "Safety, in this case, may be toward shore."



Regional marine mammal health and response manager T. David Schofield gestures as he discusses the preliminary findings on the necropsy conducted on KW2011-016, the whale that stranded on Micro Beach on Aug. 23, as Hawaii Pacific University assistant biology professor Kristi West looks on during a presentation at the American Memorial Park on Friday. The two led the team that conducted the 13-hour necropsy Thursday on the whale, a Cuvier's beaked species.

West, in a separate interview, said that among Pacific islands, Maui in Hawaii has the most number of strandings that she has dealt with on a per capita basis.

Schofield noted that not all of these stranded marine mammals are rehabilitated, with only 1 to 2 percent surviving "to the point of being released to the wild."

Pacific-wide network

Schofield said they are trying to develop a Pacific-wide marine mammal stranding network to study and compare notes on stranding trends, diseases, and trauma, among others.

"We're trying to understand what is affecting marine mammals at an ocean basin level because it's really about ocean health," he said at the presentation.

West, for her part, said they will work and develop a relationship with the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife "because they are the ones who are going to be on the ground as strandings happen in the future."

She commended the division staff for doing "an amazing job" in handling KW2011-016.

West called on the community to report any strandings to DFW. "If we don't know about it, then we have no way to record how frequent these strandings are happening," she added.

Applications for Cool Roof rebate program are now being accepted

The Commonwealth's Residential Cool Roof Rebate Program is now available to lawful homeowners on Saipan and applications are available at the Division of Energy- Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Office located in the Springs Development Building along Chalan Pale Arnold Highway on Saipan.

Lawful homeowners residing on Saipan may complete an application to qualify for up to \$3,500 for the installation and application of Cool Roof Systems to assist in reducing heat gain, thereby decreasing air conditioning needs.

Interested Saipan residents may apply to qualify, provided they meet the following minimum requirements:

- Completed and signed application form.
- Copy of valid CNMI Identification or U.S. passport.
- Three most recent utility bills showing applicant information and current installation address on Saipan, CNMI.
- Completed and signed consent to release utility billing information.
- Original cost of project completed by an approved participating vendor.
- Copy of property deed or mortgage agreement.

Applications for the CNMI Residential Cool Roof Rebate Program are available at the Division of Energy, Energy Efficiency Block Grant Office from Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, except holidays, and may be downloaded from the office website at www.cnmienergy.com. Applications are being accepted starting Aug. 30, 2011, and will be processed in the order received while funds last.

Funding opportunities for the project is made possible from an ARRA grant through the US Department of Energy - Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

For more information, contact the CNMI Energy Division Office at 664.4487/89/90. (**Office of the Governor**)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-036

**Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation
ADDENDUM NO. 1
Date: August 26, 2011**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following notice of extension to the deadline for submission of proposals and inquiries to CUC-RFP-11-036:

- **The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended from August 30, 2011 to September 28, 2011;**
- **The deadline for submission of inquiries has been extended to September 19, 2011.**

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-036 " Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 28, 2011**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-055

Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for Power Division, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office/warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space may be situated within or adjacent to the warehouse. The office/warehouse must have a loading dock and parking stalls that can accommodate over-sized heavy equipment (e. g. bucket trucks, augers and backhoes). Additionally, the proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

The RFP Packet and Specification may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **September 9, 2011 at 1:00 PM (ChST)**, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-055, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space, Power Division-T&D" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM. (ChST) local time on September 20, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) local time on September 12, 2011** to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Planning for the new Libya

By **JACK GOLDSTONE** and **CHARLES CADWELL**
THE URBAN INSTITUTE

Post-Gadhafi Libya brims with promise, but also with pitfalls. Blessed with low-sulfur oil, proximity to Europe, and recent strong economic growth, the country should be poised to move forward. But that's only if the risks of tribal conflicts and the challenges of a very young population and regional divisions can be managed.

As Tito held Yugoslavia together, and the Soviet dictatorship kept dozens of nations under one boot, Libya has been unified under one autocrat for 42 years. That reality allowed outsiders who interacted with Libya to pay less attention to its domestic politics, formal and informal.

The price of inattention, coming due now, is that policymakers in the West are scrambling to acquire the necessary map of interests and personalities, the history of conflicts and alliances that might inform the way forward. Our experience shows that old governance patterns are very durable, notwithstanding aspirations and promises of new governance values.

What other recent post-conflict evolutions also tell us is that outsiders can be enormously helpful, but that enthusiasm for initial leaders and their promises shouldn't get in the way of making the new state's legitimacy a high priority along with support for its capacity and effectiveness. Donor funds can rebuild infrastructure and improve service delivery. But it's more difficult by far to invest in institutions that assure the ongoing legitimacy of the new state. Will all Libyans trust their government to treat them fairly?

Here's what we think our experience in other countries has to teach those advising the National Transitional Council:

1. Security is number one. Security for government installations, banks and other critical sites is paramount, but so is security for individuals against crime and retribution, and a rebel army is not a suitable force for policing civilians. The remnants of Gadhafi's army and security forces, excluding only officers who ordered their troops to kill Libyans, should be offered places in a new Libyan military and police if they first agree to take at least six months of training in democratic policing. Given the urgency of establishing a police force, the U.N. should offer its training services and temporary staffing support to help the transitional government maintain order and security.

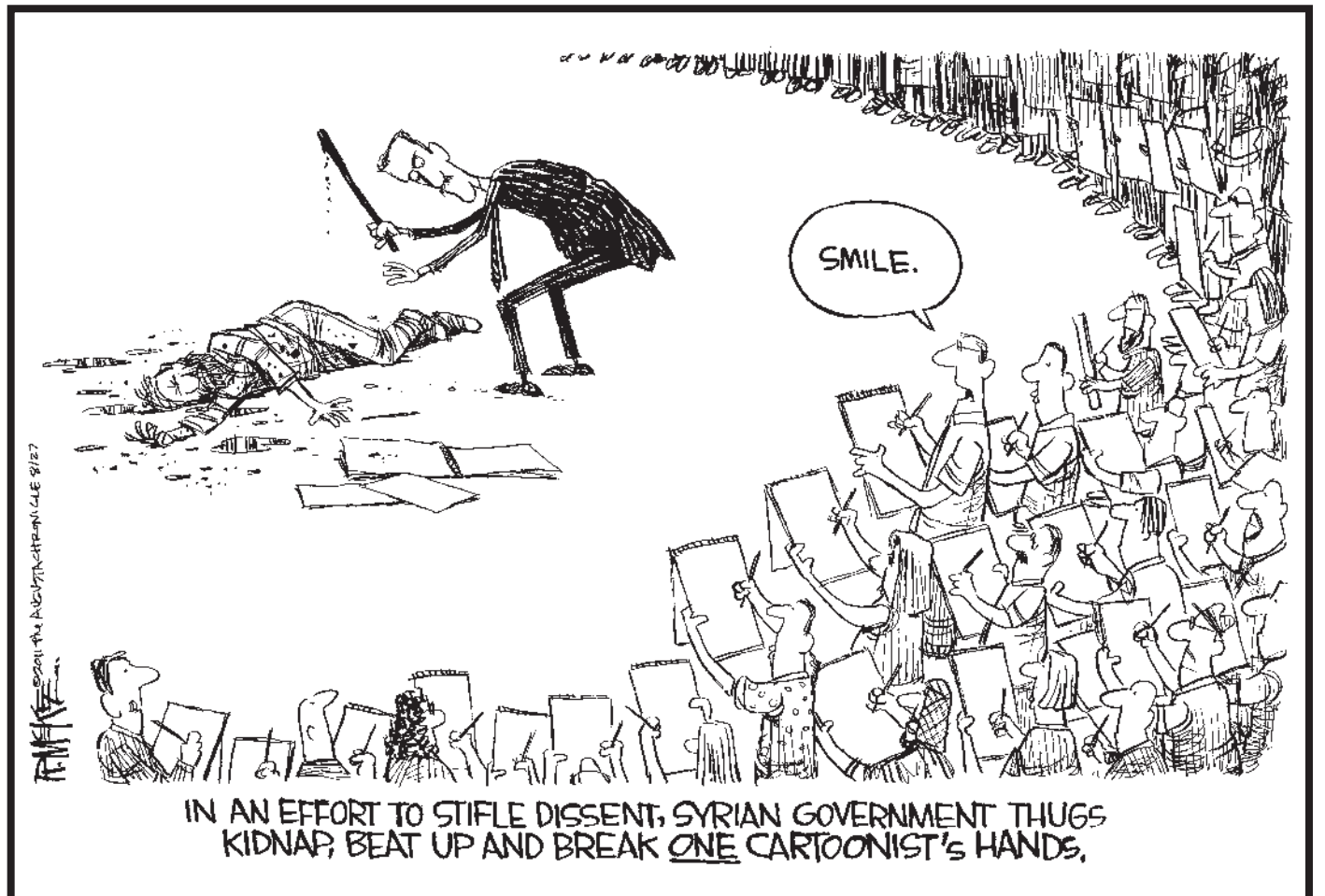
2. Embrace federalism. The Berbers of the south and west, who helped defeat Gadhafi's forces, want their language and culture recognized as primary in their region. The Eastern region does not want Tripoli to dominate either, and tribes there expect some degree of self-government. So building a new centralized regime in Tripoli should not be a goal.

Western donors, oil consumers, and geo-politicians will push to build and support a unified state that can deliver key services and command and allocate resources. Better now would be a federal system based on the regional self-determination needed to ensure broad cooperation and participation in a new Libyan regime. While Egypt benefits from a widely shared sense of "Egyptness," this is not Libya's luck.

3. Elections should not be rushed. Important stabilizing forces, elections must be legitimate, and their results must be accepted by all major parties. However, achieving the agreements and the capacity to hold such voting takes time. Libya's interim government should wait 12 to 15 months before holding national elections.

4. Jobs, jobs, jobs. Like the rest of North Africa, Libya has a large number of young men without sufficient employment. Putting people to work and restoring the war-torn economy will be

See **PLANNING** on Next Page



To find economic solutions, let's look to ourselves

By **MICHAEL SMERCONISH**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

I don't have a solution, but I do wish to propose a different way of approaching the problem.

The problem is that first, the economy is in tatters. Unemployment hovers near 9 percent. Standard & Poor's has downgraded the nation's credit rating. U.S. debt stands in excess of \$14 trillion.

Second, we're suffering political paralysis. A recent study by the National Journal showed that Congress is more polarized today than at any time in the last three decades. And though there seems to be a consensus among economists that addressing the debt will require a combination of spending cuts and tax increases, that does not seem likely to happen in this Congress, in which 236 members of the House and 41 members of the Senate have signed a pledge ruling out tax increases.

Third, no one in Washington is inspiring confidence. According to Gallup, President Obama's approval rating stands at just 41 percent. And Congress' 13 percent rating is among the lowest since Gallup started tracking the number.

Fourth, there is little reason to believe things will change in the 15 months left before the next presidential election. A congressional "super committee" has been tasked with reducing the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion by Nov. 23. But the Simpson-Bowles commission already spent a year on a more extensive analysis and came up short of the votes needed to force consideration by Congress. The commission's report nevertheless provided a framework that could have, and should have, been put to a congressional vote, but the left didn't like the proposed entitlement reforms, and the right objected to the proposed military cuts and tax increases. It's difficult to believe the next committee will do better.

And fifth, should a Republican capture the White House next year, we've already been given a preview of the intransigence that would follow. During last week's debate in Iowa, all of the Republican presidential candidates indicated they would reject a debt-reduction compromise even if it consisted of 10 parts spending cuts to only one part tax increases. (Rick Perry was not yet in the race, but it's hard to imagine that he would disagree.)

In short, we are broke, poorly represented, lacking confidence in our leaders, and understandably pessimistic about government's ability to right the economic ship.

But why are we still looking to the culprits to solve these problems? We are a nation of more than 300 million people with a tremendous entrepreneurial spirit. Tapping into that ingenuity does not require the government's involvement. It's time to look for solutions elsewhere, and some are already trying to.

Take Gene Epstein, the Bucks County, Pa., philanthropist who initiated the Hire Just One campaign. He committed to donating \$1,000 to charity for every small business that hires one new employee.

Or Howard Schultz, the CEO of Starbucks, who is urging business leaders to stop making political donations until lawmakers prove they can cooperate with one another to address the national debt and joblessness.

Warren Buffett initiated a conversation recently when he suggested the superrich should pay more than they do in taxes. Some commentators pointed out that there's nothing to stop Buffett from accessing the Treasury Department website and making a voluntary donation to be put toward reducing the national debt.

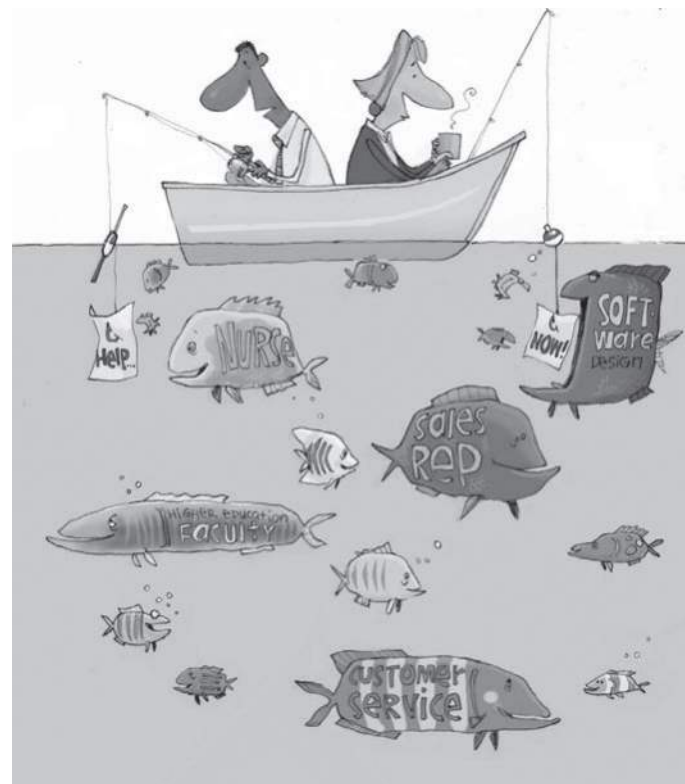
Maybe that option needs more publicity. Think about the potential commercial opportunity for businesses willing to make national debt-reduction payments as a means of spurring economic activity. Buy a new refrigerator, and GE will send \$25 to the U.S. Treasury earmarked to pay off debt. Purchase a new car, and General

Motors will send Uncle Sam \$100. You get the picture.

Look what Bono has done with his ONE Campaign to fight extreme poverty and preventable disease in Africa. Or what Lance Armstrong's Livestrong campaign has done to empower those fighting cancer.

There must be something we can do to support the nation. And it's time to do it. If you have an idea, I'd love to hear it. Find me on Facebook or Twitter, and I will republish your best ideas and keep the conversation going.

Michael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may contact him via www.smerconish.com.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Eco-democracy 101: Taking the long view

In the *The Road from Empire to Eco-democracy* crafted by members of the Symposium for Realistic Living, the thinking breaks into four parts; this is the second in a series of four. The first part was 10 wake-up calls for today's civilized sleepers: ecology, democracy, fossil fuel, population, patriarchy, racism, theocracy, money, and poverty.

This installment looks at the long view from the dawn to the demise of the civilization of our familiarity. Taking the long view on anything is not the preferred mode in our current menu of social behavior. We'd rather protest someone else's deeds, which fuels our anger when unheeded, or react in a kneejerk fashion, giving temporary therapeutic relief but often resulting in long-term damage. Or, fall into denial and indifference.

The corrective action proposed in *The Road* is to move "beyond empire," a radical step in the entire history of the planet. The needed transition is not about fixing what is broken, it is about "getting beyond civilization" toward a new mode of social organization, style of living, cosmic and personal story, and creating a realistic symbol system that unifies our knowing, doing, and being.

Sixth graders in the CNMI study ancient civilization and are familiar with the ascendancy of out-of-towner Sargon, an early empire builder who rebelled against the ruling class of Akkad and started Sumer of Abraham's legendary Ur, to conquer Mesopotamia and parts of Syria, Anatolia, and Elam (western Iran).

Sumer's literary tradition sent us to the world of the Torah, the Bible and the Koran, then to Constitutions, Contracts and Compacts. The famous Garden of Eden account is situated at the convergence of the Tigris and the Euphrates, and Moses' infant story tells like that of Sargon's.

From Ziggurat towers, the apex of the Egyptian pyramids, the burning bush of Sinai, the gods of Olympus, Constantine's

Cristo Rei, the Prophet's divine revelation in Mecca, Il Papa, the conquistadores with the cross and the blade, to the masculine obelisk of the Washington Mall, patriarchy ascended and reigned. Unfortunately, it also split body and mind, divorcing physical being from spirit, making the Earth's processes secondary to the hope of a paradise beyond the grave. It created a deep gulf between our umbilical ties to Mother Earth, transforming the promise of mindful tranquility not as a recovery of lost innocence in the garden of original blessings but a salvation to an other-worldly Other World in the by-and-by.

Patriarchal theocracy undergirded more than 5,000 years of Western civilization. It is now in a state of frantic collapse and quietly celebrated demise. Noam Chomsky of MIT in 2006 projected a U.S. failed state. Congress' recent failure to address a \$2 mil budgetary need of the FAA at the altar of "principle," losing \$200 mil in revenue, reflects a government high on checks but sorely deficient in balances. Hypocritical anarchic "high-mindedness" prevails with apparently, from our view, the sole intent simply of replacing the skin color of the current White House resident!

We live in a time of transition, at the conjunction of what is *no-longer* and what is *not-yet*. We are addicted to la-la-land escape, we ignore the pain of colliding cultural plates. However, there are those who decide to be an incisive wedgeblade in the mysterious yet awesome challenge of deciding and creating the new. No longer willing to simply rely on the natural course of evolution, we choose to stage of intentional reformulation. *The Road* follows this path.

Democracy remains an unfinished revolution. Some still view it as a theocratic gift bestowed on the chosen few rather than a human choice. Those who dare decide to give their lives on behalf of furthering neighbors' authentic voices exhibit courage to care, an uncompromising decision to choose. They heed the 10 warnings

Bad tidings inundates paradise

Like a monsoonal superstorm, this archipelago is drenched to its wits with bad tidings on every corner. I need not recount them for you know what they are by heart; it would be risking redundancy at this point. The condition we see today is apocalyptic in magnitude never before seen in the developmental history of these isles: bankrupt to the marrow of our bones!

About the only fair tidings is an all out effort by Delegate Kilili to defend grant fund cuts in view of national Republican determination to control Obama's unbridled spending habits. This is further compromised by the loss of our strength of representation attributable to the decrease in population, not to mention major loss in foreign investment funds. Wow! What trophy for posterity destined to become the Disneyland of Joblessness and ultimately, Hopelessness.

Is there a way out of this mess? Yes, however a day late and a dollar short. Let's see what our men of wisdom on the hill have in store for us other than half-cocked measures like casino, more taxes, and moral dictates on panty-drying in Garapan and bicycle regulations. It's the economy and what perfect alibi in casino as the ultimate pill destined to ruin these isles over the long haul. It's the non-obvious, i.e., social ills it brings that cost more than what's generated. But such is the wisdom of our arrogant bunch on the hill.

Casino industry isn't the Holy Grail or savior that would serve as the single magic pill that solves all financial ills that have brought the CNMI to its knees. The global recession washed ashore in tsunami-like fashion. We responded with the usual acquiescence of "whatever will be, will be, *que sera, sera*." Now the flash flood remains stationary and fatally inching upwards. Did anybody prepare for this by, i.e., filling up sandbags or did we just recite the usual "*que sera*"?

■■■

Census: Story behind the story

The drop in the CNMI population is a tale of a decrease in the number of people (over 15K who left island) that included 700 from Rota and

400-plus from Tinian, including the deployment of major foreign investment funds to the tune of \$3 billion to \$7 billion.

However unsettling, most understood the specific decision of our people who sought greener pasture elsewhere. What is known as the "chaiguan," the metaphorical seawater grass or feed for fish has slowly dried up during a prolonged drought period of snoring on the job.

Those who saw the grass wilting into parched brown fields of hopelessness quickly decided to withdraw their retirement contributions and left. It was the only option. Did our leaders lift their fingers to stave off the onset of the towering inferno that turns paradise into the hellish hole of our people? Heard some half-cocked punditry that fizzled quicker than the morning dew across playgrounds everywhere.

I feel for these folks who once had plans of raising their children in our tiny island paradise much closer to home. But they can't stand the approaching hellish fire, moving in like magma from a volcanic eruption ready to turn them into ashes in their presence.

■■■

Cost of doing biz/new wage scale

One of the larger issues facing presidential candidates is the cost of doing business across the country. It includes federally imposed minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

Michele Bachman had something to say about it pointing out the relocation of U.S. businesses to other countries forced by the prohibitive cost of doing business at home.

The federal minimum wage here has shut down opportunities for any other form of manufacturing. It's gone, it's history coupled with policies that have forced the withdrawal of foreign capital here.

It's an issue that merits critical review as real planners work out a blueprint on what needs and must be done to give the CNMI greater latitude to lure foreign capital. Without it, it's back to basics of toiling the soil to meet family dietary and other needs. Fishing in the lagoon is also basically history.

sions need to be, and will be, made by Libyans. But that's no excuse for reducing assistance to only those activities that can find agreement among the new Libyan leadership. A post-conflict development strategy that takes account of existing institutions, that targets all aspects of state capacity—not just immediate humanitarian and technocratic needs—can meet the long-term objectives of Libyans and most outside parties. Adding muscle to institutions that constrain opportunism by new state actors can help Libya avoid some pitfalls of other post-conflict regimes.

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



mentioned in the previous reflection, all of it, and deal with them comprehensively and simultaneously.

Ecology is more than just picking up trash, or recycling bottles so we can qualify to be "green." It is living in a new age, what Thomas Berry called "ecozoic" era, where the sustainability and integrity of Gaia becomes the organizing principle of our lives. Democracy is not just town meetings and one-person one-vote. It is recognizing the innate value of every person born, empowering the marginalized and disenfranchised, liberating the downtrodden, encouraging free markets for all (not a favored few), and extending social services that do not demean recipients to postures of subservience and debilitating entitlements.

Our mode of knowing hinges on verifiable facts and transparently assessed practical workability, with authority granted to those who claim authenticity rather than traditional scribal roles foisted by guardians of ancient texts and traditions. Science has become a reliable methodology as a starting point of knowing.

We face a new spectrum of political doing that requires diversity within a long view of terrestrial and human history, in a circle big enough to enclose heretofore competing and conflicting perspectives. In here lies our future and the recreation of our common humanity. Eco-democracy holds a vision of the future that invites/compels intentional behavior today.

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



So can the real leaders please step up and save the NMI from itself? Governance thirsts for real leadership and they'd pound all those who plan to enter the political arena with real hard questions. It won't be easy as it used to be.

Cost of Success

Some of the NMI's most intractable problems come not from its failures but from its successes. Often you can't get a good thing without paying a bad price for it.

During the incipient years of our constitutional government, there was a period of guaranteed funding and millions of dollars in foreign investments further cushioned by real fat land leases, public and private.

The good times were here and we allowed our successes to turn us into lifetime alcoholics, sleeping contently each night interminably convinced the good times will never end.

Well, it did, right? And we're caught with our pants down, clueless as to where we go from here, right? The seemingly permanent theme is "bankruptcy" from local government to the Retirement Fund. Did I say that? Sssshhhhhh! The boys are planning a *mea culpa* session in hopes of redemption. A bit too late, yeah?

■■■

Finally, Kilili's declaration for another term isn't news. That no one could defeat him isn't news either! I say it's a given! That he will someday step down as a tenured member of the U.S. Congress may be newsy. Then the scouting for his replacement begins anew.

If these steps are taken, Libya should make great strides toward democracy. It will not be a perfect democracy—no country is. But if Libya can do as well as Malaysia or Georgia, it will be doing all right economically, and its people will enjoy their hard-won freedom.

Jack Goldstone is the Virginia E. and John T. Hazel Jr. professor and director of the Center for Global Policy at George Mason University. Charles Cadwell is the director of the Center on International Development&Governance at The Urban Institute.

PLANNING

From Page 10






vital to retaining support for the interim government and the transition to democracy. Infrastructure spending, government positions, and incentives for foreign investment all need to be cranked up to keep young men gainfully employed.

Outsiders have diverse interests requiring coordination, and deci-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 84° ▼ 77°	▲ 84° ▼ 78°	▲ 84° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Majuro	Rain	▲ 81 ▼ 77

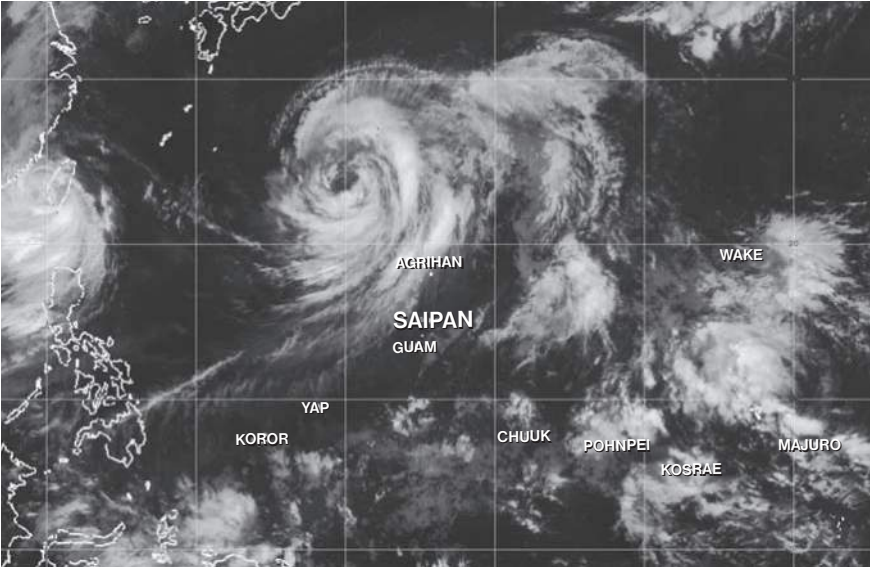
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 52
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 69
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 94 ▼ 84
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 81
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
New York	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 63
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 78
Paris	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 56
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 72
Rome	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 68
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 55
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 71
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 67

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Talas (15W) is centered west-northwest of Iwo To island at 26N140E. Talas is moving north-northwestward at 6 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of a line from 22N136E to 22N144E and within 80 miles of a line from 19N132E to 17N140E to 20N145E to 25N147E. For more information on Tropical Storm Talas, refer to bulletins issued by JTWC under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A weak circulation is centered south of Minami Tori Shima at 21N154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present northeast of the Marianas within 125 miles of a line from 17N154E to 25N155E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror and Yap within 220 miles of a line from 3N130E to 7N140E and between Pohnpei and Wake Island between 9N and 19N from 156E to 166E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae and Kwajalein within 300 miles of 4N166E. A trade-wind trough stretches northeastward from 6N172E to 9N179E. Scattered showers isolated thunderstorms are found east of Majuro or east of a line from 4N171E to 11N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:49 AM	7:59 PM
Thursday	8:49 AM	8:47 PM
Friday	9:51 AM	9:38 PM
Saturday	10:52 AM	10:32 PM
Sunday	11:53 AM	11:27 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C09314 2:20am 2:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C09315 5:30am 6:00am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C09315 4:25am 5:00am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C09314 3:20am 3:55am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C09317 4:25am 5:15am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C09315 4:25am 6:00am 1, 5 via ROP C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 5K386 5:50pm 6:40pm 4 C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C09314 2:20am 3:55am 1, 5 via ROP C09316 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 5K387 6:30am 7:20am 3, 4, 7 C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) 5K212 8:20am 10:55am 1, 3, 4, 5, 7	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN 5K213 11:55am 4:25pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:05pm 12:45am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:05am 8:30am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:20am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:50am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/191 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:05am 9:55pm Daily via NRT C09313/183 7:55am 8:40pm 3, 6 via GUM C09603/183 3:05pm 8:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM C09603/193 3:05pm 10:10pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL172/288 7:45am 12:35am+1 Daily via NRT OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0190/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 3, 6 via GUM C0192/9596 9:55pm 7:25am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:25am 5, via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am 1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/179 3:05pm 9:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:25am+1 5 via GUM C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:50am+1 1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Irene likely to lead to higher insurance premiums

WASHINGTON (AP)—The \$7 billion in estimated losses from Hurricane Irene will compound the vast damage caused by weather in the United States this year. Yet despite billions they've paid out for floods, tornadoes and earthquakes, big insurance companies can expect another profitable year.

And their customers can expect higher premiums.

The stocks of major insurers shot up on Monday as investors celebrated Irene's less-than-expected damage. The storm didn't even cause most analysts to adjust their profit estimates for insurers.

In part, that's because insurance companies have been raising premiums this year, especially for customers in high-risk areas. Homeowner and auto policies cost 5 to 10 percent more than they did a year ago, according to research by Gregory Locraft, an analyst with Morgan Stanley.

NEW YORK (AP)—Irene is gone, and East Coast airports have reopened. But it will take at least several days to get hundreds of thousands of travelers stranded by the storm to their final destinations.

Behind the scenes, ground

crews worked through the night to get planes ready, air traffic controllers prepared for a deluge of takeoffs and landings and extra pilots and other employees were called into action.

Airports in New York, Boston and Philadelphia bustled Monday after being closed for part or all of the weekend. The week before Labor Day is always a busy one for airlines, so they struggled to cram travelers stranded by Irene onto already-packed planes.

The damage from Irene and other disasters means that property insurance premiums will likely rise across the board into 2012, Locraft said.

"Irene is just another log on the fire," he said.

The storm seems unlikely to hurt the overall U.S. economy. Analysts agree that damage from Irene will likely run less than \$10 billion—a tiny fraction of the \$14 trillion U.S. economy.

Reconstruction might even strengthen areas hit hard by Irene, analysts said. Rebuilding homes, repairing cars and fixing streets and bridges should help boost those local economies late this year and early



Greg Walker pulls his row boat north on Winnikee Ave. in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Monday morning, Aug. 29, 2011 while surveying the damaging flood waters from the Fallkill Creek that devastated large areas in the north side of the city.

next year, they said.

Irene is the 10th U.S. weather disaster this year to have caused more than \$1 billion in damage, the National Weather Service says—the most for any year on record dating back 30 years. And 2011 is hardly over.

Excluding Irene, this year's natural catastrophes had caused about \$18 billion in damage to

insured properties, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Irene will add \$3 billion to \$5 billion, said Robert Hartwig, an economist and president of the group.

In a normal year, industry losses typically total \$15 billion to \$20 billion, said Robert Litan, an industry expert and senior fellow at the Brookings Institu-

tion, a Washington think tank. And the peak hurricane season is only about half over.

Another reason insurers are expected to raise premiums is that reinsurance companies are set to boost their rates Jan. 1. Reinsurance is coverage that insurance companies buy to cover their potential losses from catastrophes.

This year, reinsurance hasn't offset insurance companies' costs. Reinsurance policies don't kick in until a single disaster's costs to insurers top \$10 billion. When the billions are spread over numerous disasters, as has happened this year, insurers—and their customers—must absorb the costs.

That won't stop reinsurance companies from hiking their rates—costs that will be passed on to homeowners.

Insurance companies that cover major disasters are typically able to absorb heavy costs. They manage investment portfolios that produce relatively stable income. Most of their policies never result in claims. In such cases, the premiums are pure profit.

And when a string of catastrophes hits, as in 2011, they can raise the premiums they charge homeowners.

Even with higher premiums, finding coverage will become harder for people in areas where insurers are sensitive to risks from catastrophes. Few insurers, for example, will cover homes on fault lines or near the Gulf Coast, said Robert Rusbuldt, CEO of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America.

Obama taps labor economist for top White House job

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing a public deeply dissatisfied with his handling of the economy, President Barack Obama on Monday tapped a prominent labor economist to join his cadre of advisers and help steer a fall jobs agenda that will be critical to the president's re-election bid.

In nominating Alan Krueger as chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, Obama gains an economist with expertise in the labor market and unemployment, a key drag on the U.S. economy and Obama's presidency. Krueger, a former Treasury Department official and Princeton University economist, has advocated for hiring tax credits for businesses and increased government spending on infrastructure, two programs Obama aides are considering proposing this fall.

His appointment also caps a wholesale makeover of Obama's economic leadership team during the past year. Several high-ranking advisers, including Lawrence Summers, Christina Romer and Austan Goolsbee, have all left the ad-

ministration, leaving Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner as the only top official remaining from the president's original economic team.

Obama has often reached within his administration's ranks to fill vacant posts on the economic team, and Krueger is no exception. Though he spent last year at Princeton, he served as assistant secretary for economic policy at the Treasury Department during the first two years of Obama's administration.

Gregory Mankiw, a former CEA chairman under President George W. Bush and long-time

acquaintance of Krueger, said Obama's new nominee has a reputation as an analytic, data-driven economist, not as a champion for many specific policy initiatives. While Mankiw said he believes Krueger is highly-qualified for the post, he doesn't expect him to push the administration in any new directions when it comes to tackling the nation's economic and unemployment woes.

"This is more of a continuity appointment rather than a

move-in-a-new-direction appointment," said Mankiw, now an economics professor at Harvard University. "I don't think the president wanted a change. He's keeping the basic structure of the team in place."

White House spokesman Jay Carney brushed off questions Monday about whether Krueger would bring any fresh job creation ideas to the White House, saying only that the president's nominee was the best person for the job.



Krueger

Strauss-Kahn visits IMF to say goodbye

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the former head of the International Monetary Fund, returned to the IMF's Washington headquarters Monday to say goodbye to staffers and meet briefly with his successor. The visit came five days after New York prosecutors formally dismissed all criminal charges against him.

In a statement, the 187-nation

lending agency said its current managing director, Christine Lagarde, met with Strauss-Kahn before he met with IMF staffers.

"These were private meetings, arranged at his request," the IMF said in a statement. "We have no further comment to offer."

Paulo Nogueira Batista, who represents Brazil on the IMF's 24-member executive board,

described the meeting with staffers as warm. He said hundreds packed into an IMF auditorium to hear Strauss-Kahn speak.

"It was a very emotional, warm farewell," Nogueira Batista said. He said that Strauss-Kahn received lengthy applause when he entered the IMF auditorium and after he concluded his remarks. The session was closed to reporters.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil above \$87 amid improving US consumer demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above \$87 a barrel Tuesday in Asia amid signs of improving consumer demand in the U.S. Benchmark oil for October delivery was up 22 cents to \$87.49 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude rose \$1.90 to settle at \$87.27 on Monday. In London, Brent crude for October delivery was up 42 cents to \$112.30 on the ICE Futures exchange.

China penalizes airline for low-fuel landing row

SHANGHAI (AP)—China's Civil Aviation Administration is punishing a local airline whose pilot balked at yielding to a Qatar Airways jet requesting to land because it was short of fuel. The CAAC, in a notice Tuesday, described the incident as a "serious violation of regulations." Local reports at the time said the aircraft came dangerously close to collision before both landed safely. The Qatar jet from Doha was circling over Shanghai's Pudong International Airport on Aug. 13 due to bad weather when it radioed it was short of fuel and asked to land instead at the city's other main airport, Hongqiao International.

Japan's jobless rate climbs to 4.7 percent in July

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's jobless rate has risen for the second straight month. The government announced Tuesday that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 4.7 percent in July, edging up from 4.6 percent in June. The result reflects the fragility of the world's No. 3 economy, which is wrestling with a strong yen and an increasingly uncertain outlook for the global economy. But the actual jobs picture may be worse because the data do not include the three prefectures hardest hit by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,539.20
+254.71
+2.26%

S&P
1,210.08
+33.28
+2.83%

NASDAQ
2,562.11
+82.26
+3.32%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9387
British Pound	0.6097
Canadian Dollar	0.9768
Chinese Yuan	6.3801
Euro	0.6894

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7942	Philippine Peso	42.5305
Indian Rupee	45.9946	Singapore Dollar	1.2059
Indonesian Rupiah	8,537.5	South Korean Won	1,071.9
Japanese Yen	76.7350	Swiss Franc	0.8167
Malaysian Ringgit	2.9830	Taiwan Dollar	29.0260
New Zealand Dollar	1.1757	Thailand Baht	30.0100

Nation

Irene's death toll jumps to 40; Vermont towns battle floods

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—The full measure of Hurricane Irene's fury came into focus Monday as the death toll jumped to 40, New England towns battled epic floods and millions faced the dispiriting prospect of several days without electricity. From North Carolina to Maine, communities cleaned up and took stock of the uneven and hard-to-predict costs of a storm that spared the nation's biggest city a nightmare scenario, only to deliver a historic wallop to towns well inland.

In New York City, where people had braced for a disaster-movie scene of water swirling around skyscrapers, the subways and buses were up and running again in time for the Monday morning commute. And to the surprise of many New Yorkers, things went pretty smoothly.

But in New England, landlocked Vermont contended with what its governor called the worst flooding in a century. Streams also raged out of control in upstate New York.

In many cases, the moment of maximum danger arrived well after the storm had passed, as rainwater made its way into rivers and streams and turned them into torrents. Irene dumped up to 11 inches of rain on Vermont and more than 13 in parts of New York.

"We were expecting heavy rains," said Bobbi-Jean Jeun of Clarksville, a hamlet near Albany, N.Y. "We were expecting flooding. We weren't expecting devastation. It looks like somebody set a bomb off."

Meanwhile, the 11-state death toll, which had stood at 21 as of Sunday night, rose sharply as bodies were pulled from floodwaters and people were electrocuted by downed power lines.

The tally of Irene's destruction mounted, too. An apparently vacant home exploded in an evacuated, flooded area in Pompton Lakes, N.J., early Monday, and firefighters had to battle the flames from a boat. In the Albany, N.Y., suburb of Guilderland, police rescued two people Monday after their car was swept away. Rescuers found them three hours later, clinging to trees along the swollen creek.

"It's going to take time to recover from a storm of this magnitude," President Barack

Experts praise decisions to evacuate from Irene

NEW YORK (AP)—They were life and death decisions made by politicians, bureaucrats and everyday people. Hurricane Irene was barreling towards the East Coast. It was big. It was scary. Flooding was certain. The choice: Flee or stay put.

Disaster experts unanimously said evacuating was the right choice and it saved lives. But these were tough nail-biting calls that are now being second-guessed.

In New York City, it was debated during a critical staff meeting in City Hall where the deadly specter of Katrina and

New Orleans was raised. On Friday, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, saying he worried about deadly flooding in low-lying areas, made the first ever call for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers to leave their homes.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was trademark blunt in his order: "Get the hell off the beach."

Since Irene didn't hit with the advertised fury, those decisions and others up and down the Eastern Seaboard are being reexamined. Experts in hurricanes and disaster preparations and risk analysis, though, only had praise Monday, pointing

out it takes a long time to evacuate densely populated areas and the hurricane's forecasts left little room for error.

"Second-guessing is easy, making those evacuation calls is not," said George Washington University risk sciences professor George Gray, a former senior Environmental Protection Agency official in the George W. Bush administration. "Given available information, I think risk analysts would say the right choices were made."

Traditionally, larger areas and more people have been evacuated than turns out to be necessary,

said Florida State University professor Jay Baker, who has studied hurricane evacuation.

"That's just an artifact of the uncertainty," said Baker.

Meteorologists have gotten pretty good at figuring out a storm's path, but predicting its strength is a struggle. They nailed Irene's track but it weakened more than forecast as it moved north.

Irene "was a very dangerous storm," said Kathleen Tierney, director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado, saying this storm was handled far better than 2005's Katrina. "I don't think there's any doubt that lives were saved."

Outer Banks on Saturday before heading for New York and New England, 1,000 people were still in emergency shelters, awaiting word on their homes.

At the same time, nearly 5 million homes and businesses in a dozen states were still without electricity, and utilities warned it might be a week or more before some people got their power back.

"Once the refrigerator gets warm, my insulin goes bad. I could go into diabetic shock. It's kind of scary because we don't know how long it's going to be out for," said Patricia Dillon, a partially paralyzed resident of a home for the disabled in Milford, Conn., where the electricity was out and a generator failed. Her voice cracking, she added: "I'm very tired, stressed out, aggravated, scared."

Russ Furlong of Barrington, R.I., ruefully remembered the two weeks he went without power after Hurricane Bob 20 years ago.

"Hopefully, we won't have to wait that long this time," he said. "Last night we had candles. It was romantic. It was fun. But that feeling doesn't last too long."

Up and down the Eastern Seaboard, commuters and vacationers found their travel plans scrambled. Airlines warned it would be days before the thousands of passengers stranded by Irene find their way home. Some Amtrak service in the Northeast was suspended. Commuter trains between New Jersey and New York City were not

running. Trains between the city and its northern suburbs were also disrupted.

Kris and Jennifer Sylvester of Brooklyn sat on a bench in the town center in Woodstock, N.Y., with luggage at their feet and their daughters, aged 4 and 9, holding signs reading, "Need a Ride 2 NYC" and "Help Us, No Bus, No Train." They rode Amtrak out for a long weekend in the country, but were unable to get home.

"We're hoping for anything," Jennifer Sylvester said.

In Vermont, the state's emergency management headquarters stood empty, evacuated because of river flooding from Irene's heavy rains. Rescuers used a boat and bucket loaders to pluck seven people from a swamped mobile home park in Lyndonville.

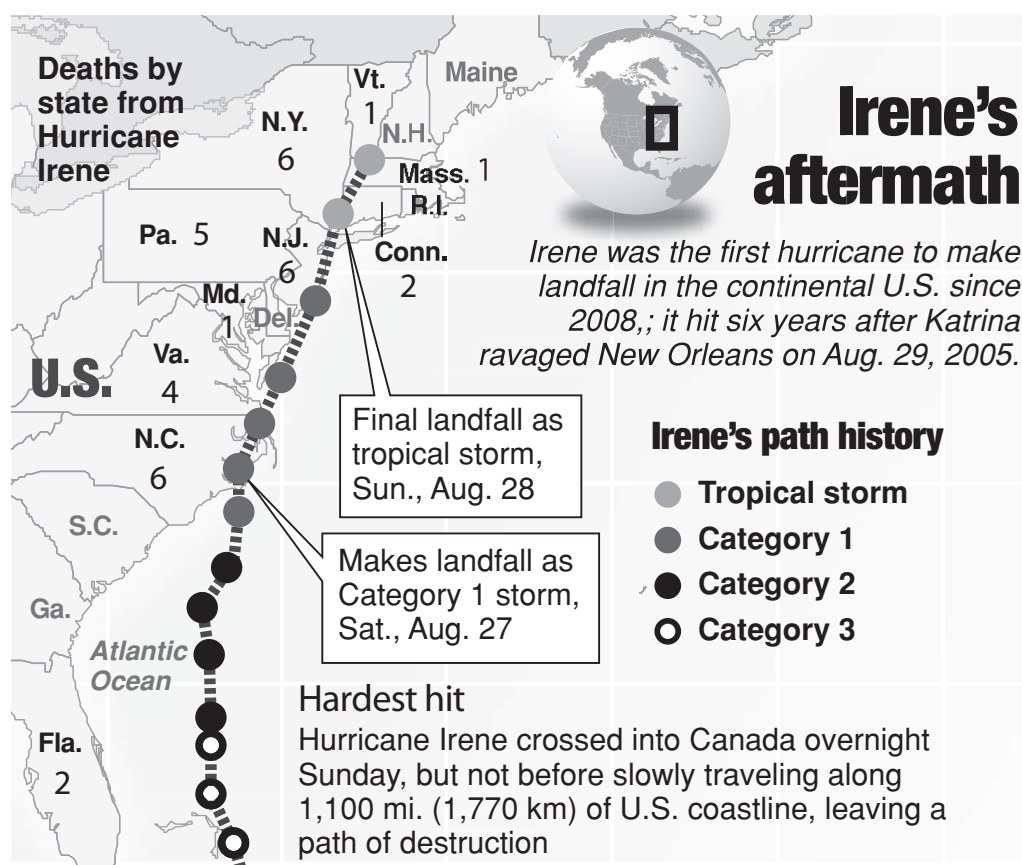
In upstate New York, authorities were closely watching major dams holding back drinking water reservoirs.

Throughout the region, hundreds of roads were impassable because of flooding or fallen trees, and some bridges had simply given way, including a 156-year-old hand-hewn, wooden, covered bridge across Schoharie Creek in Blenheim, N.Y. In all, more than a dozen towns in Vermont and at least three in New York remained cut off by flooded roads and bridges.

Still, there were glimmers of good news. In Pennsylvania, the Delaware River largely remained in its banks, cresting several feet lower than feared. The forecast for flooding on the Mohawk River in New York also eased at Schenectady, N.Y., where officials had worried that high water might threaten the city's drinking water and sewage treatment plant.

Early estimates put Irene's damage at \$7 billion to \$10 billion, much smaller than the impact of monster storms such as Hurricane Katrina, which did more than \$100 billion in damage. Irene's effects are small compared to the overall U.S. economy, which produces about \$14 trillion of goods and services every year.

While hard-hit regions, such as the North Carolina coast, will suffer from lost tourism, rebuilding homes, repairing cars, and fixing streets and bridges should provide a small boost to economy, experts said.



Pennsylvania Seven buildings collapsed in Philadelphia; damage at \$139 million

North Carolina Total economic losses may be \$1.44 billion

NOTE: Death totals as of 4 p.m. Aug. 29

Source: National Hurricane Center, AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

New Jersey 15,000 people in shelters; more than 600,000 without power

New York Severe flooding; more than 1 million without power

Vermont President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency; roads closed as floodwaters started to recede

Virginia Second-largest power failure in state history; 2.5 million without power

Delaware Tornado touched down Saturday; no injuries

© 2011 MCT

Obama warned as he promised the government would do everything in its power to help

people get back on their feet.

For many people, the aftermath could prove more painful

than the storm itself.

In North Carolina, where Irene blew ashore along the

ACROSS THE NATION

Source: Warren Jeffs in medically induced coma

HOUSTON (AP)—Polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs was hospitalized Monday in a medically induced coma in critical condition after fasting in the weeks since receiving a life sentence for sexually assaulting underage followers he took as spiritual brides, officials said. The 55-year-old head

of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was expected to survive, an official familiar with Jeffs' medical condition told The Associated Press. It was not clear how long Jeffs—who has a history of refusing to eat while incarcerated—would remain in the coma or how long he would be hospitalized, the official said. The official requested anonym-

ity because the person was not authorized to discuss the information publicly.

Astronauts might have to abandon space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Astronauts may need to take the unprecedented step of temporarily abandoning the International Space Station if last

week's Russian launch accident prevents new crews from flying there this fall. Until officials figure out what went wrong with Russia's essential Soyuz rockets, there will be no way to launch any more astronauts before the current residents have to leave in mid-November. The unsettling predicament comes just weeks after NASA's final space shuttle flight.

Alaska woman in hot sauce case spared jail time

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska woman convicted of punishing her adopted Russian son by squirting hot sauce into his mouth was spared immediate jail time on Monday. Thirty-six-year-old Jessica Beagley was given three years of probation, a 180-day suspended jail sentence

and a \$2,500 fine—also suspended—after she was convicted last week of misdemeanor child abuse. Prosecutors say she used a videotape of herself punishing the 7-year-old boy as a ploy to get on the "Dr. Phil" TV show. Beagley submitted the eight-minute tape for a show segment titled "Mommy Confessions." She said the boy had lied about getting into trouble at school.

Asia

Typhoon floods homes in Taiwan, heads for China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A typhoon that flooded homes, roads and farmland in Taiwan with more than 20 inches (half a meter) of rain left the island Monday and headed to south-eastern China.

Typhoon Nanmadol stayed over Taiwan for only a few hours and was weaker than when it pummeled the Philippines, where at least 16 people died and another eight were missing.

One death in Taiwan was attributed to the storm—a motorcyclist hit by debris—and disruption to everyday life was extensive.

Some 30,000 households in southern and eastern Taiwan lost power, 8,000 people were evacuated and scores of roads and bridges were closed due to the heavy rain. Offices and schools were closed in the southeast as well as in the capital, Tai-

pei, which escaped the brunt of the storm.

In a southwestern county, civil defense crews used small boats to rescue people from communities inundated by flash flooding. Dozens of homes were flooded. CTI cable news station footage showed the aftermath of landslides in Pingtung township and several homes partially submerged by water. Pingtung is just to the south of the mountainous regions where more than 500 people died two years ago in mudslides spawned by torrential rains associated with Typhoon Morakot, the most devastating storm to hit the island in half a century.

A slow government response to that catastrophe prompted a fusillade of criticism aimed at President Ma Ying-jeou, who is up for re-election this January.

Japan's parliament elects Noda new prime minister

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's parliament elected former Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda as the new prime minister on Tuesday—the country's sixth leader in five years.

A fiscal conservative, Noda faces a host of daunting problems, including the post-tsunami recovery and nuclear crisis, and a sluggish economy and the yen's surge, which hurts Japan's exporters.

Noda, who was elected Monday to head the ruling Democratic Party of Japan, succeeds the unpopular Naoto Kan, who officially resigned earlier Tuesday with his Cabinet after nearly 15 months in office.

Noda, 54, must seek to unify the fractious ruling party and restore public confidence in politics amid widespread disgust over squabbling in par-

liament and perceived lack of leadership in the wake of the triple disaster.

He is a "moderate voice" in the ruling party, Sheila Smith, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, wrote in a comment. "He has a steady temperament and a reputation for fairness in a party where loyalties have been severely tested of late."

Given the pressing problems at home, Noda will likely focus on the disaster reconstruction and other domestic matters.

A staunch supporter of the U.S.-Japan security alliance, Noda has angered China and South Korea for comments about convicted wartime leaders revered at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, where the souls of all Japan's war dead are enshrined.

Earlier this month, he reiter-

ated his claim that the wartime leaders had paid their debts and should no longer be seen as war criminals. He made similar comments in 2005.

Yasukuni visits by postwar politicians have often enraged Japan's neighbors, who bore the brunt of Japan's colonial aggression and are sensitive to any efforts by Japan to whitewash its past.

As finance minister, Noda has been battling the yen's recent rise to record highs against the dollar. Earlier this month, he authorized Japan's intervention in global currency markets to try to weaken the yen.

Noda has also said Japan must rein in its huge deficit—twice the country's gross domestic product—and has voiced support in the past for raising the country's 5 percent sales tax, but has toned that down lately.

Japanese
prime minister
designate

**Yoshihiko
Noda**

Early years

Born 1957, in Funabashi, Japan; son of a member of the military; grew up in Chiba, east of Tokyo
Education Waseda University, Matsushita Institute of Government and Management

Political career

1993 First elected to parliament representing Chiba as a member of the now-defunct Japan New Party; later joined Democratic Party of Japan; re-elected to parliament five times

2002-2006 Held various offices in party leadership

2009-2010 Senior vice minister of finance

2010-2011 Minister of finance

2011 Elected prime minister
• Known as a fiscal hawk, he has called for stringent reform to cut Japan's public debt and raising taxes to fund social security
• Will be responsible for leading his country to recovery after the earthquake, tsunami and for trying to restore faith in government

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Source: BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

PH leader visits China to seek investments

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines and China will put their disagreements over overlapping claims to South China Sea islands on the back burner as the Philippine president was to begin a weeklong visit Tuesday aiming to sharply increase trade with Beijing.

President Benigno Aquino III is leading a delegation of almost 300 business leaders on a trip during which the Philippines and China are expected to agree on a five-year economic development plan seeking to boost two-way trade six-fold, to about \$60 billion.

Most of it will be Chinese investments in manufacturing, railways, shipyards, mining and tourism as the Philippine economy continues to grow and Aquino's government seeks funds to increase spending on social services to reduce poverty, his main election promise.

A third of the Philippine population of 94 million live on a \$2 or less a day, and the coun-

try's economy largely relies on remittances from overseas Filipino workers—about 10 percent of the populace.

China is lagging behind the U.S. and Japan as the Philippines' third-largest trade partner.

Beijing's attempts in the last decade to establish a more powerful economic and political presence in the former American colony floundered as Aquino's predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, staggered in a series of corruption scandals over allegedly overpriced projects involving Chinese companies.

Under public pressure, Arroyo in 2007 canceled a flagship \$330 million Philippine government deal with China's ZTE Corp. to set up a nationwide broadband network. Her husband and a former elections chief have denied accusations of receiving kickbacks and ZTE of bribing any officials.

Aquino's government is also reviewing a Chinese-sponsored railway project that

was initially worth \$503 million, but the cost reportedly ballooned to some \$2 billion.

But the biggest irritant in the relations is the spat over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, where the Philippines has embarked on oil and gas exploration in what Beijing considers its territory. Early this year, Manila accused China of harassing its oil survey ship, and Beijing said that recent construction work by Philippine troops on an island claimed by Manila violates the spirit of a preliminary agreement reached last month with other Southeast Asian nations.

Aquino said ahead of the visit that both countries want to resolve the dispute peacefully.

"It is said that there are couples who have been together for 50 years and they are still getting to know each other," he told Chinese media last week. "So perhaps the conflicts provide an opportunity also to have the test that makes for a stronger relationship."

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III climbs up the BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (PF 15) as he leads arrival ceremonies at Manila's pier, Philippines Tuesday Aug. 23, 2011.

AP



ASIA BRIEFS

Knife attack at Chinese daycare center wounds 8

SHANGHAI (AP)—A worker slashed children with a knife at a daycare center for migrant workers in eastern China on Monday, wounding eight of them, one seriously. The attack happened at noon at an informal daycare center in Shanghai's

suburban Minhang district, home to many migrant workers. The woman was taken into custody and police were investigating, said Zhuang Liqiang, an officer in the information services department of the Shanghai Public Security Bureau. He did not provide further details. Of the eight children sent to the hospital for treatment, four suf-

fered light injuries and one was relatively seriously hurt, but none faced life-threatening injuries, the official Xinhua News Agency and local reports said.

22 Chinese miners rescued after 7 days trapped

BEIJING (AP)—Twenty-two coal miners were rescued Tues-

day from their flooded pit in northeastern China after being trapped underground for a week. State broadcaster CCTV showed the men being brought slowly to the surface, with all apparently in good condition. Hopes for the miners were revived Sunday after noises were detected through a 920-foot (280-meter) pipe that was drilled to allow fresh air

into the illegal mine near the city of Qitaihe.

Criminal cases of 1,200 Kashmiris to be dropped

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Authorities in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir are dropping about 1,200 criminal cases against young Kashmiri men for allegedly throwing stones dur-

ing violent protests against Indian rule last year, officials said. The amnesty—offered during a summer of quiet in the usually violence-prone region—is a "one-time opportunity" meant to give the suspects "an opportunity to be responsible persons and lead a normal life," said the region's top elected official, Omar Abdullah.

World

Gadhafi's wife and three children flee to Algeria

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's wife and three of his children fled Libya to neighboring Algeria on Monday, firm evidence that the long-time leader has lost his grip on the country.

Gadhafi's whereabouts were still unknown and rebels are worried that if he remains in Libya, it will stoke more violence. In Washington, the Obama administration said it has no indication Gadhafi has left the country.

Rebels also said one of Gadhafi's other sons, elite military commander Khamis, was probably killed in battle.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Gadhafi's wife Safia, his sons Hannibal and Mohammed, and his daughter Aisha entered the country across the land border. It said Algerian authorities have informed the United Nations Secretary General, the president of the U.N. Security Council, and the head of the Libyan rebels transitional leadership council.

Ahmed Jibril, an aide to rebel National Transitional Council head Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, said officials would "demand that Algerian authorities hand them over to Libya to be tried before Libyan courts."

Gadhafi's children played important roles in Libya's military and economic life. Hannibal headed the maritime transport company; Mohammed the national Olympic committee. Aisha, a lawyer, helped in the defense of toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in the trial that led to his hanging.

Ahmed Bani, military spokesman of the council, said he was not surprised to hear Algeria welcomed Gadhafi's relatives. Throughout the six-month Libyan uprising, rebels have accused Algeria of providing Gadhafi with mercenaries to repress the revolt.

Over the weekend, the Egyptian news agency MENA, quoting unidentified rebel fighters, reported that six armored Mercedes sedans, possibly carrying Gadhafi's sons or other top regime figures, had crossed the border at the southwestern Libyan town of Ghadamis into Algeria. Algeria's Foreign Ministry had denied that report.

Bani said Monday that rebel forces may have killed Kha-



A rebel fighter points out holes he believed to have been caused by bullets, in the fuselage of one of the aircraft alleged to belong to Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi, in Tripoli, Libya, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. AP

mis Gadhafi in a clash Saturday. Rebel clashed with a military convoy near the town of Tarhouna, 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, destroying two vehicles in the convoy. The bodies in the cars were burned beyond recognition, he said, but captured soldiers said they were Khamis

Gadhafi's bodyguards.

"We are sure he is dead," Col. Boujela Issawi, the rebel commander of Tarhouna, told AP. But then he cast some doubt, saying it was possible Gadhafi's son was pulled alive from the car and taken to Bani Walid, a contested interior area.

Col. Abdullah Hussein, a former

pilot in the Libyan airforce who is part of the rebels' command center in Tarhouna, said that "we heard from Bani Walid that he (Khamis) died in the hospital there."

Asked how they knew this, since Bani Walid is still under regime control, he said: "We have some people there."

It was possible this was psychological warfare. The rebels claimed to have captured Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam, a key figure, only to have him turn up the next day and talk to reporters.

Rebel leaders have started to set up a new government in the capital Tripoli after their fighters drove Gadhafi's defenders out

over the past week. Gadhafi's whereabouts are still unknown, however, and people close to him have claimed he is still in the country and leading a fight to hold onto power.

"Gadhafi is still capable of doing something awful in the last moments," rebel leader Abdul-Jalil told NATO officials earlier Monday in Qatar.

The focus of concern is Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte, his last major stronghold in the country. The town, 250 miles east of Tripoli, is heavily militarized and shows no signs yet of surrendering even though rebels say they are trying to negotiate a bloodless takeover.

There was some fighting Monday on the eastern and western approaches to Sirte. Some have speculated that Gadhafi and other senior regime figures may have fled there.

A NATO officer, who asked not to be identified because of alliance rules, said there was fighting 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of Sirte. He said there are still clashes around Sirte, Bani Walid south of Misrata and Sebha further south.

Taking Sirte will mean getting past entrances that are reportedly mined and an elite military unit. Gadhafi's tribe is the most powerful in the city. Libyans familiar with the coastal city on which Gadhafi has lavished building projects say its first line of defense is a heavily fortified area called the al-Wadi al-Ahmar, 55 miles (90 kilometers) to the east.

The rebels asked NATO Monday to keep up pressure on remnants of Gadhafi's regime.

"Even after the fighting ends, we still need logistical and military support from NATO," Abdul-Jalil said in Qatar. NATO has been bombing Gadhafi's forces since March under a United Nations mandate to protect Libyan civilians.

In Tripoli, rebel leaders were struggling with widespread shortages of water, fuel and electricity.

Some residents filled containers with drinking water from large trucks. One of the water truck drivers, Ramzi Abu Shabaan, said the shortages were a small price to pay. "I don't care if we go without water for two months even—frizz-head is gone—it's worth it," using a commonly used derogatory nickname for Gadhafi.

Libyan Lockerbie bomber near death, family says

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—The former Libyan intelligence officer convicted in the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing is close to death and slipping in and out of consciousness, his family said Monday, a week after the regime that protected him was ousted from power.

Abdel Baset al-Megrahi was the only person convicted for the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people. He was released from a Scottish prison on humanitarian grounds in 2009, only eight years into a life sentence, after doctors predicted he would die of prostate cancer within three months.

Many victims' families were infuriated by his release. That

fury only grew when he returned to a hero's welcome in Libya, remained alive long past those doctors' predictions and even appeared at a recent pro-Gadhafi rally. The downfall of the Gadhafi regime spurred calls from some in the United States and Europe that he be returned to prison.

The Obama administration has asked the rebels to review his case, with an eye toward potentially expelling him if he does not die in the meantime, a U.S. official said Monday.

Washington has asked rebel officials to "take a hard look at what it thinks ought to happen with Mr. Megrahi, and it is committed to do that," State

Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters.

"This is a guy with blood on his hands, the lives of innocents. Libya itself under Gadhafi made a hero of this guy. Presumably, a new, free, democratic Libya would have a different attitude toward a convicted terrorist," Nuland said.

But First Minister Alex Salmond, head of the semiautonomous Scottish government, told reporters Monday that only his administration could demand al-Megrahi's extradition—and that it did not intend to do so. Al-Megrahi has abided by the conditions set upon his release, Salmond said, including keeping Scottish authorities updated

on his medical status and not committing any new crimes.

"We have never had and do not have any intention of asking for the extradition of Mr. al-Megrahi," he said, adding that calls by others for al-Megrahi's return "have no bearing on this issue."

He suggested that those calling for al-Megrahi's return to jail instead allow the bomber "to die in peace."

Libya's rebel leaders, who are scrambling to replace Gadhafi's regime with a government of their own, initially said they would not deport al-Megrahi or any other Libyan, then softened their stance, saying that only the future elected government could deal with such issues.

WORLD BRIEFS

26 militants, 10 soldiers killed in Yemen fighting

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A new round of fierce fighting in southern Yemen killed 10 soldiers and 26 militants, military officials said Monday, the latest battle in a government campaign to retake territory from al-Qaida-linked fighters.

Another 38 militants and about 30 soldiers were wounded in the clashes that took place near the city of Dufas in the southern province of Abyan, they said. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations, said the fighting took place over the past 24 hours. Among the military dead was a colonel.

12 Americans rescued from Senegalese island

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—A group of Americans including several United States Embassy employees were forced to spend the night in their swimsuits on a deserted island off Senegal's coast this weekend after the ocean became too turbulent for their boat to cross, a military

spokesman said Monday. The 12 people, including a group of four women and a private party from the U.S. Embassy, had to be rescued by Senegal's air force from the island which is visible from the coastal capital of Dakar. They became stranded on Ile de Madeleine on Saturday when the waves became too large for their small fishing vessels to leave the

island's cove, said spokesman Col. Abdourahim Kebe.

Mount Etna's eruption intensifies in Italy

ROME (AP)—Mount Etna is spewing out ash and shooting spectacular bursts of lava high into the air as the eruption on the island of Sicily intensifies. Italy's Civil Protection agency

said Italy's geophysics and volcanology institute on Monday registered increased explosive activity by the volcano, eight days after the latest eruption began. The government agency says Etna started spewing out a significant amount of ash in a southeast direction early in the day but that the eruption tapered off in about two hours.

Focus

6 years after Katrina, Lower 9th Ward still bleak

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—In New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, the grasses grow taller than people and street after street is scarred by empty decaying houses, the lives that once played out inside their walls hardly imaginable now.

St. Claude Avenue, the once moderately busy commercial thoroughfare, looks like the main street of a railroad town bypassed long ago by the interstate. Most buildings are shuttered, "For Sale" signs stuck on their sides. There aren't many buyers. And the businesses that are open are mostly corner stores where folks buy pricey cigarettes, liquor and packaged food.

Six years after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast, the New Orleans neighborhood that was hardest hit still looks like a ghost town. Redevelopment has been slow in coming, and the neighborhood has just 5,500 residents—one-third its pre-Katrina population.

But politicians, investors and celebrities continue to promise a better future. City leaders recently announced plans to rebuild a high school and pave the neighborhood's roads. And actor Wendell Pierce, who stars in an HBO series about New Orleans, is backing a new supermarket for an area that hasn't had one in 20 years.

While residents welcome the news, they remain skeptical. Promises have been dashed too many times.

"Look around you at the Katrina houses!" said Robert Stark, a 54-year-old disabled veteran, sweating in stifling August heat on a porch looking onto Flood Street. He waved at two vacant crumbling houses, like so many that dot the Lower 9th Ward.

He shook his head and added: "Look at the grass." In many lots, fields of high grass grow in place of houses. "There ain't nothing new down here. Nothing new...nothing new."

That's not completely true.

Since Katrina, the predominantly black neighborhood has been the site of rebuilding by environmental groups and thousands of volunteers. There's now an eco-friendly community center and a cluster of more than 50 modernistic houses, built with the help of actor Brad Pitt. It sits near where the flood-wall toppled on Aug. 29, 2005, killing dozens of people and swamping thousands of homes with floodwaters that reached rooftops.

Also, a charter school has been rebuilt and many of the shotgun-style homes and Creole cottages in the older part of the neighborhood, Holy Cross, are a display of bright New Orleans colors and cheery yards.

But residents of the Lower 9th Ward, downriver from the French Quarter, nevertheless feel left behind.

Other parts of New Orleans have flourished thanks to federal recovery dollars that have brought new businesses, schools and streets.

Entrepreneurship and civic engagement is up, city schools have shown test-score gains and the middle class is growing, according to a new report by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, a group tracking the city's recovery. Even crime—still nearly twice the national average—is being held in

check and falling, the report said. Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers is getting closer to finishing \$14 billion in work to better shield the city from future hurricanes.

"Some of the data shows that New Orleans is rebuilding better than before," said Allison Plyer, deputy director of the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center.

Still, Plyer said the Lower 9th Ward is among a number of low-income communities that have had difficulty rebuilding since Katrina's flooding.

In the Lower 9th Ward, the fire station for Engine 39 hasn't been rebuilt. Instead, the firefighters use



*There ain't nothing new down here.
Nothing new... nothing new.*

a trailer. Schools and churches are boarded up. Scores of houses still bear the markings of search-and-rescue crews—the now familiar "X" spray painted on doors and the front of houses to designate whether a building had been searched, by whom and whether any bodies had been found inside. The only difference is they are faded now.

The lack of people makes those who've come back feel that their neighborhood has been forgotten, even though a steady stream of politicians came to promise to help after Katrina and millions of dollars flowed in.

Now there's a new push to revive the neighborhood.

In recent days, city leaders have

put forward plans to rebuild the Alfred Lawless High School and spend \$45 million repaving most of the streets where the heaviest damage took place.

A group of investors that includes Pierce, a New Orleans native starring on the HBO show "Treme," has announced plans to build a full-scale grocery store on the grounds of a former baseball field by 2013. Developers hope to get federal hurricane recovery low-interest and forgivable loans. If built, the 25,000-square-foot store would represent one of the first pioneering commercial investments for the Lower 9th Ward since Katrina.

Pierce said big-chain supermarkets are unable to see the potential for profit in a place like the Lower 9th Ward, where his parents lived before he was born.

"Corporate America only sees the risk side of the ledger," he said. "I'm tired of industry standing on the sidelines. There is value here, there is wealth here... It's pent-up demand and I feel as though it is something that can be mined."

Not everyone is convinced.

David J. Livingston, a Wisconsin-based grocery consultant who's studied the New Orleans market, said the Lower 9th Ward is too depopulated to support a supermarket. He questioned whether the Lower 9th Ward, cut off by an industrial canal from the rest of New Orleans, can ever be a lively spot for commerce despite the best efforts of actors Pitt and Pierce.

"All the work that Brad Pitt has done, has it really made a significant difference? Glad he did it, better than it was. But it's still not the garden spot of New Orleans," Livingston said, referring to the cluster of eco-friendly homes built by the Pitt-backed foundation Make It Right.

But local residents and merchants hold out hope the supermarket can help turn things around.

"Maybe some of the folks going to the supermarket would come here," said April Lawrence, the owner of a beauty salon who took a chance and opened in 2009 on Dauphine Street. "Today, I have just one client," she said glumly. Unless business picks up, she said, she will have to close.

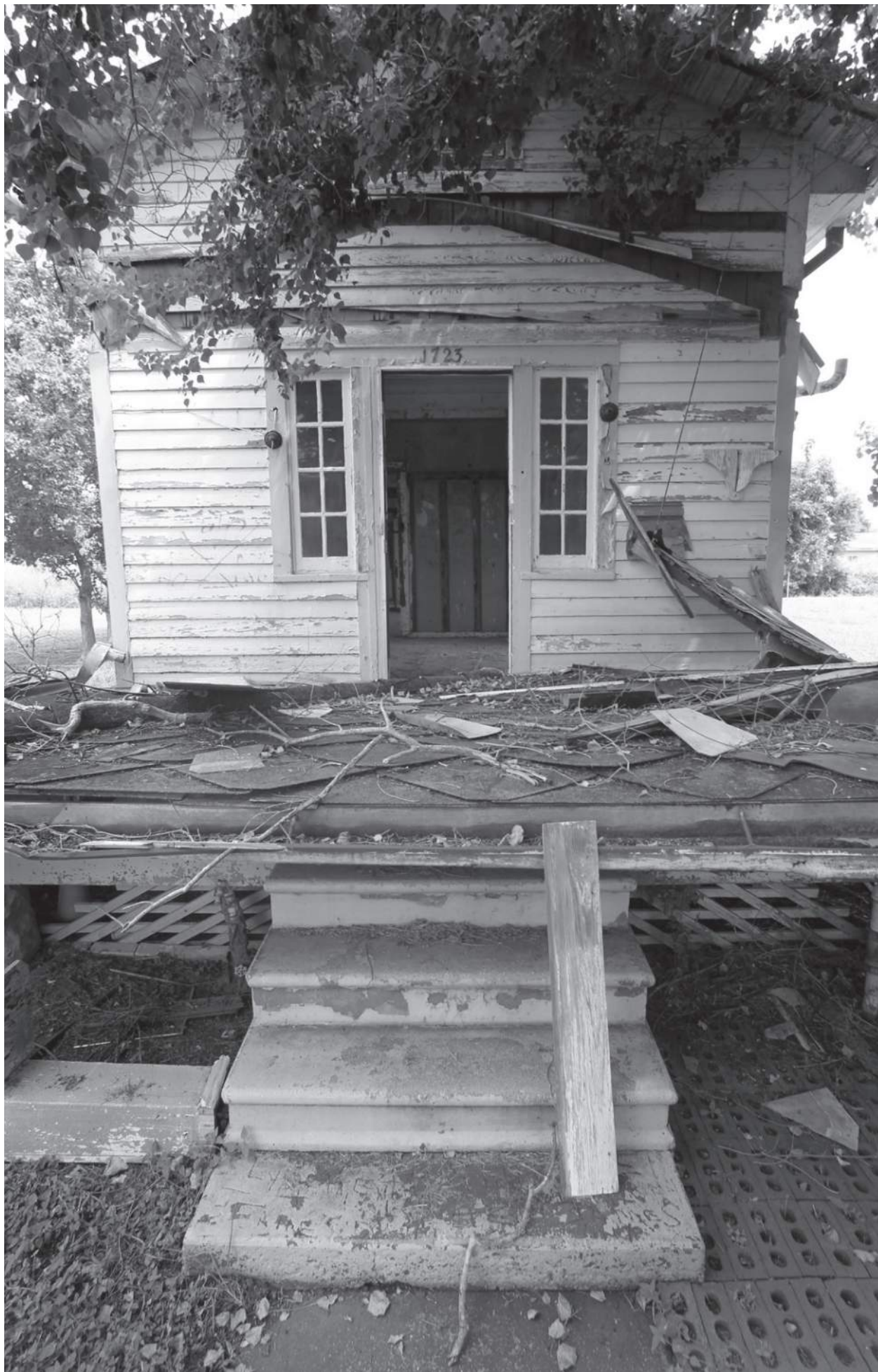
Down the street, regulars sat outside on the sidewalk in front of Mercedes' Place, a bar and video poker spot, chatting, drinking and smoking. For them, anything would be better than the options they have now: Drive miles to get something decent to cook up at home.

"It's needed!" Lynette Gibson said emphatically and loudly. She helps her 72-year-old mother, Mercedes, run the bar.

She shook her head at the thought of the handful of gas stations and convenience stores on the main streets. "It's limited," she said. "They only satisfy neighborhood people who drink."

Roosevelt Johnson Sr., a 51-year-old disabled veteran, stood outside his house and looked at the empty grass field where the grocery store would be built.

"With them bringing a supermarket, it might increase property values," he reasoned. "It might bring some normalcy back here. Make it like any other neighborhood where you go 10 minutes to the supermarket."



A destroyed home is seen along Flood St. in New Orleans, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011.

AP

Campus Life

CAMPUS BULLETIN

SSHS' start of classes

Saipan Southern High School will start school year 2011-2012 on Sept. 6, Tuesday. Classes will start at 8:30am and end at 3pm. Should you have questions, call the SSHS principal directly at 237-3702 or the SSHS main office at 664-4000. (PR)

Orientation meeting for KES kinder parents

There will be an orientation meeting for all Koblerville Elementary School's kindergarten parents on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011, at 6pm at the KES cafeteria. Please bring your child with you. If you have any questions, call 483-5647. (PR)

Oleai Elementary parent/guardian orientation set

This is to inform all parents and guardians of returning and new students of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a parent/student orientation on Sept. 1, 2011, and Sept. 2, 2011, at 5:30pm, at the school cafeteria. Parents and guardians should attend any of the two dates. (PR)

Kagman Elementary schedule of activities

■ Aug. 31, Parent and guardian student orientation day in the school cafeteria.

Kindergarten to 3rd Grade, 9-10am
4th -6th Grade at 1-2pm

■ Sept. 1, school level PD

■ Sept. 2, school level PD

■ Sept. 5, Labor Day, CNMI legal holiday

■ Sept. 6, First day of classes for students, from kindergarten to 6th grade

■ Kindergarten (AM) session, 8-11am

■ Kindergarten (PM) session, 11:45am-2:45pm.

■ 1st to 6th Grade, 8am-2:45pm

Instruction starts at 8am for all elementary schools. Parents and guardians are asked to have their child or children at school before 8am but not earlier than 7:30am. Bus riders are asked to be at the designated bus stop by 6:55am. Bus pick up time is 7am. (PR)

SVES parent/guardian orientation

The San Vicente Elementary School has scheduled its parent and guardian orientation for school year 2011-2012 for Friday, Sept. 2, from 5pm to 5:30pm in the cafeteria and from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in their respective classrooms. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. (PR)

SAES parent orientation schedule

The San Antonio Elementary School will hold its parent orientation on Sept. 6 and 7, according to grade levels. The orientation will be in each respective classroom. All parents are urged to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher. Please be on time.

SEPT. 6

Kinder (AM & PM), 3pm-4pm

4th Grade, 4pm-5pm

5th Grade, 5pm-6pm

6th Grade, 6pm-7pm

SEPT. 7

1st Grade, 4pm-5pm

2nd Grade, 5pm-6pm

3rd Grade, 6pm-7pm

SIS students take in Machu Picchu, other Peruvian sites



Saipan International School students pose wearing the traditional Aymara dress.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Machu Picchu, arguably the most famous site in Peru, is celebrating this year its 100 years of re-discovery.

Machu Picchu, also called the "Lost City of the Incas," is one of the most important cultural sites in the world and is one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, which include The Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, and Petra in Jordan.

The Incas built Machu Picchu atop an Andean peak 7,970 feet (2,430 meters) high, with a breathtaking view across the inhospitable abysses that surround it. Some experts believe it was a refuge for one or more Inca rulers, others that it was a religious sanctuary.

Machu Picchu was largely unknown to the outside world, abandoned and covered in highland jungle, until July 7, 1911, when Yale University historian and explorer Hiram Bingham reached Machu Picchu and later announced its existence. He became famous as the site's modern discoverer, though Peruvian Agustin Lizarraga



Members of the Destinu Peru group have their picture taken at the Machu Picchu, Inka Site in Cusco, Peru.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The student delegation celebrates a patient's birthday at the Children's Hospital in Lima, Peru.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

had been there first. He wrote on one of the citadel's stones with a piece of charcoal: "Lizarraga, July 14, 1902, for posterity."

A group of 16 Saipan International

School students recently visited Peru in a fast-paced journey that brought them not just to Machu Picchu but also to some of the most picturesque regions in the country. (PR)



Chris Camacho has his picture taken with an Aymara girl during a visit to the Lake Titicaca, Uros Islands in Puno, Peru.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

Rare find discovered amid town's Old West kitsch



This July 28, 2011, photo shows an antique Gypsy fortune teller machine, that sat for decades in this Virginia City, Mont., restaurant and has received a multimillion dollar offers from curators including magician David Copperfield. AP

VIRGINIA CITY, Mont. (AP)—The Gypsy sat for decades in a restaurant amid the Old West kitsch that fills this former gold rush town, her unblinking gaze greeting the tourists who shuffled in from the creaking wooden sidewalk outside.

Some mistook her for Zoltar, the fortune-telling machine featured in the Tom Hanks movie "Big." Others took one look at those piercing eyes and got the heebie-jeebies so bad they couldn't get away fast enough.

But until a few years ago, nobody, not even her owner, knew the nonfunctioning machine gathering dust in Bob's Place was an undiscovered treasure sitting in plain sight in this ghost town-turned-themed tourist attraction.

The 100-year-old fortune teller was an extremely rare find. Instead of dispensing a card like Zoltar, the Gypsy would actually speak your fortune from a hidden record player. When you dropped a nickel in the slot, her eyes would flash, her teeth would chatter and her voice would come floating from a tube extending out of the eight-foot-tall box.

Word got out when the Montana Heritage Commission began restoring the Gypsy more than five years ago, and collectors realized the machine was one of two or three "verbal" fortune tellers left in the world.

One of those collectors, magician David Copperfield, said he thinks she is even rarer than that.

"I think it's only one of one," Copperfield said in a recent telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Copperfield wanted the Gypsy to be the crown jewel in his collection of turn-of-the-century penny arcade games. It would occupy a place of pride among the magician's mechanized Yacht Race, Temple of Mystery and various machines that tested a person's strength.

Copperfield acknowledged approach-

ing the curators about buying the Gypsy a few years ago but declined to say what he offered. Janna Norby, the Montana Heritage Commission curator who received the call from Copperfield's assistant, said it was in the ballpark of \$2 million, along with a proposal to replace it with another fortune-telling machine. On top of that, he pledged to promote Virginia City in advertisements.

But Heritage commission curators, representing the Gypsy's owner—the state of Montana—rejected the idea, saying cashing in on this piece of history would be akin to selling their soul.

"If we start selling our collection for money, what do we have?" said Norby, the commission's former curator of collections.

The commission's acting director, Marilyn Ross echoed Norby's sentiments: "That is not something we would ever consider, selling off these antiques."

That dismissal has set collectors grumbling. Theo Holstein, a California collector and renovator of such machines, said he thinks the Gypsy is wasted in Virginia City and should be placed in a private collection for proper care. He said he is trying to gather investors to make a \$3 million bid that would top Copperfield's offer.

"They don't have any idea what they have. It's like they have the world's best diamond and they just pulled it out of their mineshaft," Holstein said. "It's good that it's there and it survived, but now it really needs to be part of the world."

Holstein said he wouldn't be surprised in the machine ultimately sold for \$10 million or more. Copperfield also said he is still interested in purchasing it.

That could put pressure on the state, which, like the rest of the nation, is facing hard fiscal times. Montana's budget is in the black, but keeping the effects of the recession at arm's length has meant deep budget cuts.

Those cuts have hit the Montana Heritage Commission particularly hard. Just weeks after Norby spoke to the AP, her position and three others were eliminated as part of a larger reorganization to cut \$400,000 from the commission's budget, Ross said.

The state agency that oversees the commission, meanwhile, is not so quick to reject the idea of selling the Gypsy. Department of Commerce deputy director Andrew Poole said he has not seen any offers in writing, and if one were made, it would go through a bid process that includes the scrutiny of the commission and input from the public.

The state inherited the Gypsy in 1998 when it paid \$6.5 million to buy nearly 250 buildings and their contents in Virginia City and nearby Nevada City from the son of Charles Bovey. The Montana collector spent years buying up the build-

ings to preserve the two crumbling ghost towns and he stocked them with his ever-growing collection of antique games, music machines and oddities.

Bill Peterson, the heritage commission's former curator of interpretation, said the collection includes hundreds of thousands of items, so many that curators are still discovering them.

The Gypsy was made sometime around 1906 by the Mills Novelty Co. In restoring her, the curators either replaced or repaired frayed, worn or broken parts with exact replicas. When they couldn't find replicas or period materials, they didn't replace the parts.

"We don't want to make her anything that she wasn't," Norby said.

In 2008, they installed the Gypsy as the centerpiece of the Gypsy Arcade amid the ancient wooden buildings of Virginia City's main street. Calliope mu-

sic spills out into the street, beckoning the tens of thousands of visitors to enter and view the stereoscopes, shock tests, tests of strength, fortune telling machines and love letter machines. The Gypsy presides over the menagerie in the rear, ropes keeping visitors at a distance.

All of that care in restoring, preserving and displaying the Gypsy causes state curators to reject Holstein's argument that the machine should be removed from Virginia City and placed in a private collection.

"A lot of these collectors, they come and say the same thing: 'Why is this out in the public? Why don't you just take the money and have a collector restore it the way it should be restored and have it in his private collection?' Well, nobody would ever see it," said Peterson, whose position also was eliminated in the cutbacks.

For Helen Mirren, 'Debt' becomes her

By LEWIS BEALE
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—There's really nothing more you can say about Helen Mirren.

That she's one of stage, screen and TV's greatest actresses is a given. If nothing else, her Oscar-winning portrayal of Queen Elizabeth in "The Queen" and her multiple Emmy Award-winning performance as tortured policewoman Jane Tennison in the "Prime Suspect" TV series speak to her astonishing versatility and range. In addition, at age 66, she's regarded by many as one of the sexiest women on the planet.

Lewis Beale spoke with her while she was doing publicity for her latest film, "The Debt," opening Wednesday, in which she plays a retired Mossad agent who finds out that there is some decades-old business that needs to be taken care of.

Q. What was it about "The Debt" that interested you?

A. I thought it was a great story. We have all kinds of movies nowadays, we can see anything we want on the screen, and what gets lost a lot these days is the story. And I felt that was what this was, it's a bit of a nail-biter, a mystery, a love story, and you get the feeling it could be true. And I loved the idea of playing a proactive role.

Q. My guess is at this stage in your career, you can pick and choose your roles. How do you do it?

A. Who's the director? That's important. Is it great writing? Where is it shooting? If it's being shot in a fabulous location, that will be fun. And is it sufficiently different from the last thing I did. I did "Arthur" after I did "The Debt," and that was one of the great pleasures, following up with a comedy.

Q. You've also done a lot of theater work, for which you've won numerous awards. How do you rate theater versus film?

A. Theater is more tiring, demanding, more frightening, everything. Film you have to get up early in the morning, and I hate that. Both are powerful mediums, but the great thing about theater is you do material you don't normally do on film, and you're the editor of your performance onstage.



In this film image released by Focus Features, Helen Mirren is shown in a scene from the espionage thriller "The Debt." AP

Q. You've recently been shooting an HBO film about the record producer Phil Spector. What part do you play?

A. I'm playing Phil's defense lawyer in the first trial. It's not a literal documentary sort of piece; it's written and directed by David Mamet, so it's more mythological, more to do with the way human beings are. Spector is incredibly damaged, damaged by fame and fortune, as so many people are.

Q. Your birth name is Ilyena Lydia Vasilievna Mironoff. Your father was Russian, and his father was a czarist diplomat who got caught in London during the revolution and couldn't return home. Is there anything about you that's particularly Russian?

A. I love borscht, and do drink vodka. I have that sort of Russian peasant bottom half. There is a Russianness in my nature. I think there's a tendency to be serious about life, to philosophize about life and take life seriously.

Q. You don't have any children of your own—although you have two stepsons with your husband, director Taylor Hackford—and have said you have "no maternal instinct whatsoever." Have you ever regretted your decision?

A. I don't think my mother really wanted to be a mother. She did, because it's what you did then. And I never heard from her, "When are you going to give me grandchildren?" I think she lived my freedom from fam-

ily through me. But I am very family-oriented—my husband, my stepsons, we create a very tight family nucleus, we love each other and support each other. But I never personally wanted to have children. It's just my nature. I love children, and I'm a pathetic kind of baby lover, but I just didn't have the desire to go that route in the past.

Q. You and your husband have been a couple since the 1980s and were married 14 years ago. How do you maintain such a long-lasting relationship?

A. It's the old-fashioned qualities of trust and loyalty. Giving the other person the freedom to do what they're driven to do, especially with two artists.

Q. You were recently named as having the best female body in a poll taken by L.A. Fitness, and a photo of you taken in 2008 looking fabulous in a red bikini went viral. Are you tired of people obsessing over your 60-something hotness?

A. I'm patient and humorous about it, but I'm tired of it. I don't look like that. I was lucky in that paparazzi shot that went viral, and it's not really how I look. It wasn't digitally enhanced, but not really realistic. And I think honestly, if I have any vestiges of any kind of a nice body, it's genetic. It's ironic that the L.A. Fitness picked me, because I've joined fitness clubs and never gone. I occasionally do the Canadian Air Force Exercise, which is 12 minutes a day, but mostly I don't exercise. But people want to hear I'm in the gym every day.

New HIV case causes LA porn industry shutdown

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An adult film performer has tested positive for HIV, causing porn producers to shut down shoots in Southern California as the diagnosis is confirmed through re-testing, according to an industry group.

Free Speech Coalition executive director Diane Duke told The Los Angeles Times (<http://lat.ms/mX0vin>) on Monday that her group became aware of the HIV case Saturday.

A series of tests were being conducted on the performer to confirm the case before anyone the performer might have spread the illness to will be notified to get tested, Duke told The Associated Press.

She didn't know how long that would take.

Duke declined to release the performer's name,

age or gender, citing the person's federal right to medical privacy. She also declined to say how her group learned of the case.

The case was found in an out-of-state clinic that doesn't report to California health officials, said Duke.

If the initial case is confirmed, the group will ask two generations of the person's sexual partners to get tested, meaning those who had sex with the performer and the sexual partners of those who had sex with the performer.

The voluntary industry shutdown affects porn producers in the San Fernando Valley, the heart of the multi-billion dollar American porn industry, and includes Hustler and Evil Angel's productions.

The porn industry was shut down similarly in

late 2010, after porn actor Derrick Burts was diagnosed HIV positive.

Burts has since gone on to advocate for the mandatory use of condoms in porn with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

The health advocacy group and state workplace safety officials say state law mandates porn performers to use condoms to protect themselves under the same set of rules that require nurses to wear gloves in hospitals when dealing with bodily fluids.

Cal/OSHA is working to clarify the regulation to make it more specific to porn.

Earlier this month, the health advocacy group announced that it will gather 41,138 petition signatures to get the issue of condoms in porn on the

June 2012 ballot.

The ballot measure would ask Los Angeles residents whether porn producers must require performers to use condoms on shoots as a condition of getting a filming permit.

"The question remains how many performers must become infected with HIV and other serious STDs before the industry will clean up its act and government will do the right thing?" said Michael Weinstein, president of AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

The group has unsuccessfully pushed California and Los Angeles County officials to tighten enforcement of condom use on porn sets through legislative attempts, lawsuits and regulatory complaints.

Jackson molest case barred from doctor's trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The judge in the upcoming trial of Michael Jackson's doctor ruled Monday that the defense cannot call any witnesses to testify about the child molestation investigation that led to the pop star's trial and acquittal in 1995.

Prosecutor David Walgren argued that lawyers for Dr. Conrad Murray were seeking to engage in character assassination of the victim in the involuntary manslaughter case.

"The people are concerned about this trial deteriorating into an attack on Michael Jackson," Walgren said.

The hearing took place on what would have been Jackson's 53rd birthday.

Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor barred a half-dozen witnesses related to the molestation case, including the police detective who headed searches of Jackson's Neverland home in Santa Barbara County in 2003. The judge said such testimony would be distracting and misleading for the jury in Murray's trial and is irrelevant.

The judge said he was barring any mention of the molestation case because, "It proves nothing regarding the year 2009," when Jackson died.

Defense attorney Edward Chernoff said he was seeking testimony that in the past Jackson had been addicted to the painkiller Demerol.

Chernoff repeated a previously stated defense position that the pop star was addicted to that drug and was withdrawing from it when he died of an overdose of propofol and other medications in June 2009.

Walgren, however, said Jackson's autopsy found no Demerol in his body.

The judge effectively blocked the Demerol defense when he also excluded the testimony of Dr. Arnold Klein, a dermatologist blamed by the defense for giving Jackson Demerol. Pastor said written reports on Klein's statements could be used but neither the doctor nor his assistant will testify.

Walgren argued that the defense was seeking to transfer re-

sponsibility for Jackson's death to Klein. The judge appeared to agree with the prosecutor.

"The calling of Dr. Klein does raise the issue of third party culpability," the judge said, noting jurors would become distracted by that issue.

Opening statements in the trial of Murray are scheduled to begin on Sept. 27. Murray, who has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter, could face up to four years in prison if convicted.

Authorities allege he gave Jackson a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of his rented mansion on June 25, 2009.

In court on Monday, Chernoff suggested that Jackson was desperate for sleep and turned to propofol because he was withdrawing from Demerol.

Pastor said he would permit two other doctors and a nurse to testify about their interactions with Jackson regarding propofol. One was a dentist who used Murray's office for a dental procedure on Jackson in which he administered propofol.

Outlining the planned defense for the Houston-based cardiologist, Chernoff reiterated that he would claim Jackson self-administered the drug in a desperate quest for sleep.

Also barred was the testimony of Tohme Tohme, a one-time Jackson manager who negotiated the contracts for Jackson's ill-fated "This Is It" concerts, and John Branca, the co-executor of Jackson's estate. Pastor has said Jackson's finances won't be discussed at the trial.

The judge ordered lawyers back to court Sept. 6 to finalize jury questionnaires which will be handed out beginning Sept. 8.

He said in-court questioning will begin Sept. 23 with each side allotted 20 minutes to question each jury prospect.

When Chernoff suggested that time was too short, the judge said, "Counsel will have the most comprehensive jury questionnaire I've ever seen, perhaps the comprehensive one ever. You will know from that who they are and what they are thinking."

Janet Jackson won't attend tribute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Janet Jackson said Monday she won't attend a planned tribute concert for her older brother Michael in Wales because the show coincides with the trial of a doctor charged in the King of Pop's death.

The singer's one-sentence statement to The Associated Press does not criticize the show, as her brothers Jermaine and Randy have done, but cites the court case as her reason for not attending.

"Because of the trial, the timing of this tribute to our brother would be too difficult for me," her statement reads.

Her statement was released on what would have been her brother's 53rd birthday.

Organizers of "Michael Forever—The Tribute Concert" have struggled to line up top-name acts and have been criticized by fans and the late singer's estate for multiple reasons, including its costly tickets, timing and remote location.

The show is scheduled for Oct. 8 in Cardiff, Wales, and the singer's mother, Katherine, and some of her children are scheduled to attend.

Christina Aguilera, Smokey Robinson, and Cee Lo Green are the top-names listed as performers so far. Organizers had to rescind an offer to the

band Kiss after fans and Michael Jackson's estate noted that singer-bassist Gene Simmons had harshly criticized the pop singer over the years.

Opening statements in the involuntary manslaughter trial of Dr. Conrad Murray are scheduled to begin on Sept. 27. Murray, who has pleaded not guilty, could face up to four years in prison if convicted.

Authorities allege he gave Michael Jackson a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of his rented mansion on June 25, 2009.



Jackson

NEW YORK (AP)—The threat of Hurricane Irene didn't stop the cast and crew of the musical "Chicago" from celebrating a Broadway milestone Friday night with cake and a very big knife.

At a small backstage party at intermission, the show marked its 6,137th performance—tying "A Chorus Line" for the fourth longest-running show in Broadway history.

A loud cheer went up when Christopher Sieber, who stars as Billy Flynn, toasted the cast with non-alcoholic sparkling wine in the wardrobe room at the Ambassador Theatre.

Bebe Neuwirth, who played Velma Kelly back when the revival began its near-15-year streak, then plunged a large knife into a vanilla sheet cake decorated with a classic "Chicago" image of a sexy murderess.

"Nice, Bebe, nice!" roared a member of the ensemble. Then Neuwirth, Sieber, Charlotte d'Amboise (a veteran Roxie Hart) and Nikka Graff Lanzarone, the current Velma, cut slices of the cake and passed them around on blood red plates with red plastic forks.

The next performance of

'Chicago' is Broadway's 4th longest-running show



In this photo provided by The Publicity Office, from left, "Chicago" cast members Christopher Sieber, Nikka Graff Lanzarone and Charlotte d'Amboise watch as original cast member Bebe Neuwirth cuts a cake Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, in New York.

the John Kander and Fred Ebb musical will give it sole possession of the fourth-place spot. Because of Irene, that performance has been pushed back to Monday night.

When it finally leaps over "A Chorus Line," "Chicago" will also become the longest-running American show in Broadway history. Ahead of it are "The Phantom of the Opera," "Cats"

and "Les Miserables," all British imports.

"What it says to me is that it stands the test of time," said Carol Woods, who has played

Matron "Mama" Morton in

the show for over a decade. "People will always come and be entertained."

Set in the 1920s, "Chicago" is a scathing satire of how show business and the media make celebrities out of criminals. It has Bob Fosse-inspired choreography, skimpy outfits and killer songs such as "All That Jazz," "Cell Block Tango" and "Mr. Cellophane."

"If anyone had told me it would be around for almost 15 years, I would have laughed at them," said Donna Marie Asbury, who has been playing June since 1999. "The material is just so good and the team is so wonderful. It's been an amazing ride."

The vaudeville-flecked revival, which began performances on Oct. 23, 1996, snagged six Tony Awards—including for best musical revival—and a Grammy Award. Since then, it has been performed in 30 countries and been translated into 12 languages. More than 10 million people are believed to have seen the show.

Another reason the revival has managed to last is the de-

cision to cast celebrity replacements in lead spots—basically asking famous performers to join a show about the venality of celebrities.

Just some of the stars who have done stints in the show include Sofia Vergara, Melanie Griffith, Brooke Shields, Ashlee Simpson, Paige Davis, Marilu Henner, Rita Wilson, Usher, Huey Lewis, Michael C. Hall, Jerry Springer, Billy Zane and Christie Brinkley.

Even a 2002 film version starring Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Queen Latifah and Richard Gere didn't dampen ticket sales. In fact, the box office boomed for years as interest increased, thanks to national attention and advertising.

For Leslie Stiefelman, the musical director who has been on board since its early days in 1996, the secret to the success of "Chicago" is about recreating that first night's excitement.

"People in the theater talk about a 'magic time.' This show has been consistently about capturing that—in its style and beauty and sound. Every night, we reinvent that magic."

Ron Artest, Chaz Bono in new 'DWTS'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The new cast of "Dancing With the Stars" has been revealed.

ABC says the 13th season of the hit show will feature a mix of actors, athletes and TV personalities. Set to tango and quickstep with professional dance partners will be basketball star Ron Artest; World Cup soccer player Hope Solo; reality stars Robert Kardashian, Kristin Cavallari and Chaz Bono; TV personalities Nancy Grace, Carson Kressley and Ricki Lake; singer-actress Chynna Phillips; actors David Arquette and J.R. Martinez; and Italian actress Elisabetta Canalis, who may be better known in the United States for being George Clooney's ex-girlfriend.

Ryan O'Neal was set to join the cast, but his publicist said the actor had not yet fully recovered from recent knee-replacement surgery.

The new cast members will perform their first dance routines on the season premiere on Sept. 19. The first celebrity contestant will be eliminated on Sept. 20.



In this image released by ABC, back row from left, NBA player Ron Artest, actor David Arquette, actor and Iraq War veteran J.R. Martinez, TV personality Rob Kardashian, activist Chaz Bono, seated from left, TV personalities Ricki Lake, Kristin Cavallari, singer Chynna Phillips, TV host Nancy Grace, Soccer player Hope Solo and Italian personality Elisabetta Canalis, the celebrity cast for the upcoming dance competition series, "Dancing with the Stars," pose for a portrait in Los Angeles.

Colombian couple win world salon tango competition

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A couple from Colombia were declared winners of the salon dancing category of the World Tango Championships on Monday night, edging out a Venezuelan pair following an unprecedented tie in the final round.

Diego Benavidez Hernandez and Natasha Agudelo Arboleda were the first Colombians to win the category at the tango competition, which this year drew about 400 couples from around the globe.

A jury of seven experts picked them over John Erban and Clarissa Sanchez from Venezuela after a danceoff between the two pairs. The couple finished the final round tied for first among 40 couples.

"It's a dream. You think it is impossible to achieve, but this is proof that it can," Arboleda said after receiving the first prize of \$7,500.

A U.S. couple, Brian Nguyen and Yuliana Basmajian of San Francisco, won third.

On Tuesday, the final round

of the more creative "stage tango" competition, which combines classic tango with ballet. Twenty couples have advanced to that round.

Tango is the embodiment of the "criollo" culture of Europeans and natives who settled around the Rio de la Plata.

Born at the end of the 19th century, the music and dance reflect the passion, drama and melancholy of their experience. The dance is now celebrated worldwide, with many top dancers coming from Japan.

Judge limits actress' damages in 'Housewives' case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge urged attorneys to try to settle Nicolete Sheridan's wrongful termination lawsuit over her ouster from "Desperate Housewives" on Monday after limiting damages the actress may recoup if she wins at trial.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Allen White ruled that Sheridan can seek damages for only one year's pay on the show, not for the entire length of the series. The show is entering its eighth and final season.

Sheridan's character, Edie Britt, was killed off in the fifth season. Attorneys for the show claim it was a creative decision, but the actress says she was wrongfully fired for complaining that "Housewives" creator and executive producer Marc

Cherry struck her during a fight in September 2008.

White has pared down the case since Sheridan sued ABC, the network that airs "Housewives,"

and Cherry in 2010. The judge previously threw out Sheridan's harassment claims against Cherry, and ruled Monday that the actress cannot make reference to his alleged rude behavior toward others.

Her attorney, Patrick Maloney, argued jurors should be allowed to consider whether Sheridan was entitled to wages for at least two seasons since



Sheridan

she had options to return to the show for those years. White said the show's producers had discretion to eliminate Sheridan's character and there was no case law that would entitle the actress to seek payment beyond the sixth season.

If Sheridan wins, she may be entitled to punitive damages. But her actual damages would be limited to the roughly \$980,000 she would have earned during Season 6 had she not been written off the show.

A jury will consider only Sheridan's battery and wrongful termination claims at trial.

"You're going to spend a lot of money on this case," White told attorneys, who have previously said they would not settle the case.

Swimmer who 'loses' trunks must learn to cool his jets

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: After a messy divorce, I moved with my 17-year-old daughter "Allie" to Florida. I'm thrilled that she has adjusted so quickly to the lifestyle here, which revolves around the beach and backyard swimming pools. Allie now has a boyfriend, "Shane," who is 19 and in college. I like him, and it appears he likes me too—maybe a little too much.

Shane lives with his parents down the street, and he's often at our house when he and Allie aren't in school. Because I work at home and my office is adjacent to the pool, I can't seem to escape him. When Allie is doing her homework or talking on the phone, Shane swims alone and does a fair amount of "preening." I have the feeling he does it to gain my attention. The other day, after jumping in the pool, he surfaced without his swim trunks and said the pool jets had ripped them off him. Then he got out of the pool and put them back on in front of me. When I told him I found the situation embarrassing, he shrugged and smiled, leaving me feeling awkward.

Being from the Midwest, I'm used to people behaving and dressing more modestly. Here, it seems like anything goes, and the skimpier the clothing, the better. Am I a prude, or should I listen to my instincts that something is not right? And what do I say to Shane that will allow me to keep my dignity?

TAKEN ABACK IN TAMPA

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: The pool jets did not rip the trunks off your daughter's boyfriend. It appears she is involved with an exhibitionist. If it happens again, tell him you find what he's doing to be disrespectful and offensive, and if he wants to parade his shortcomings at his own home that's his privilege, but at yours his pants should stay on at all times—or you'll tell his mother. Shame on Shane.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been through a lot and have never given up. Lately, however, I am having second thoughts. Everyone in my family is an addict or a recovering one. I left my ex-husband because of his drinking. My son has been in rehab and relapsed many times. I have gone through every last financial and emotional option with him.

At this point, I'm feeling like all hope is gone. I'm writing to you because I am trying to find some thread of life to help me understand why bad things keep happening to me. How do I squeeze out one last drop of hope when my cup of faith is empty? I want to find a purpose to all the pain.

STRUGGLING FOR ANSWERS, PARK CITY, UTAH

DEAR STRUGGLING: Volumes have been written by authors and philosophers trying to explain why bad things happen to good people. In your case, it appears you were born into a family with a genetic predisposition to addiction. Because the behavior of people with substance abuse problems was familiar to you, you married another one.

While I appreciate your desire to help your son, for your own mental health, please accept that the battle to free himself from addiction is his and his alone. You can't conquer it for him, much as you might hope to.

If you haven't already done so, attend some meetings of support groups for families and friends of people who have addictions. There you will find others who are helping one another through the same issues you are encountering. Such groups are listed in your phone directory and on the Internet. Believe me, you are not alone in your search for answers.

■ ■ ■

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: A happy Eid al-Fitr, one and all!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prince Harry to train at US military bases

EL CENTRO, Calif. (AP)—Prince Harry—a British Army captain—will train at two U.S. military bases in California and Arizona as part of an Apache attack helicopter course conducted by his country's Defense Ministry. Base spokeswoman Michelle Dee said Monday that the prince will arrive in early October at the Naval Air Facility in El Centro, Calif., near the U.S.-Mexico border. She says the same course will also take him to the Air Force Auxiliary Air Field in

Gila Bend, Ariz. The training in the United States consists of environmental training, live firing and tactical exercises. The British Defense Ministry says the prince will join an Apache squadron. The Defense Ministry would not comment on his deployment plans, citing its policy.

Michael Jackson's children visit Ind. boyhood home

GARY, Ind. (AP)—Michael Jackson's children and father visited the late pop star's boyhood home in Gary, Ind., as the town

celebrated what would have been his 53rd birthday. Hundreds of fans took part in activities outside the house in Jackson Street over the weekend ahead of Jackson's birthday on Monday. Thirteen-year-old Paris Jackson told WLS-TV that she enjoyed seeing so many fans at the house when she and her brothers, 14-year-old Prince and 9-year-old Blanket, visited on Saturday. The Post-Tribune of Merrillville reports that Jackson's father Joe attended activities at the home on Sunday. The Jackson family moved from Indiana to California in 1969 after the Jackson 5 struck it big. Jackson died in June 2009.

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Kristy R. Diaz/Kimberly R. Diaz/
Davie B. Diaz
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PRO SE
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN RE THE MATTER
OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF KRISTY R. DIAZ,
DAVIE B. DIAZ AND
KIMBERLY R. DIAZ
AS GUARDIANS OF
THE ESTATE OF:**

**DAVIE MICHAEL
BLAS DIAZ II**
Minor Child,

by

**KRISTY R. DIAZ,
KIMBERLY R. DIAZ,
AND DAVIE B. DIAZ,**
Petitioners.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardians for the estate of the above-named minor child by Kristy R. Diaz and Kimberly R. Diaz, and Davie B. Diaz, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the Superior Court before the Honorable Associate Judge Perry B. Inos on 1st day of September, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Qualification Requirements: Must hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in Accounting and a minimum of 5 years of professional experience in governmental or financial accounting; U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Copy of degree/official transcript, police clearance, and professional certification must be attached to the application and must be submitted to the Office of Personnel Management.

For more information, please contact Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director by e-mail at executive@cda.gov.mp or by phone at 234-6245.

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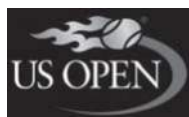
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Sharapova, Venus win; Kvitova loses at Open



NEW YORK
(AP)—Trailing big in the first round of the U.S.

Open, Maria Sharapova thought—well, no, she was certain—that she'd pull through if she could push her inexperienced opponent to a third set.

And Sharapova was right.

Shrieking as loudly as ever, Sharapova came back from a set and a break down against 19-year-old Heather Watson of Britain to win 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 on Monday, improving to 12-0 this year in matches that went the distance.

"It's just a matter of belief within myself, that no matter how well or bad or good I'm playing, or my opponent is playing, I know I can tough it out," the No. 3-seeded Sharapova said after her 2 1/2-hour victory. "No matter what the situation is, I have the belief."

That self-confidence comes not merely from her success in three-setters this season, but also from three Grand Slam titles, including the 2006 U.S. Open. It's the sort of track record the 102nd-ranked Watson hopes to have one day; Monday's match was only her fifth at a major tournament.

Sharapova won six Grand Slam matches at Wimbledon alone this summer, reaching the final there before losing to Petra Kvitova. Fresh off that triumph, Kvitova—a 21-year-old from the Czech Republic seeded No. 5 in Flushing Meadows—failed to follow it up, flopping at the U.S. Open with a 7-6 (3), 6-3 loss to 48th-ranked Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania.

Kvitova is the first reigning Wimbledon women's champion to lose her first match at the U.S. Open in the same season. Only three times had the Wimbledon winner bowed out as early as the third round in New York: Sharapova in 2004, Conchita Martinez in 1994, and Billie Jean King in 1973.

"This is something new for me," Kvitova said about her new status as Grand Slam champion. "I've felt a little pressure."

She was the only seeded woman to exit on Day 1 of the year's last major tournament, joined on the way out by No. 15 Viktor Troicki of Serbia, a 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 loser against Alejandro Falla of Colombia.

At night, 2000-01 U.S. Open champion Venus Williams played her first match in two months and beat 91st-ranked Vesna Dolonts of Russia 6-4, 6-3. Williams hit six aces and 28 total winners against the weary Dolonts, who left Moscow at 4 a.m. EDT and arrived at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center at 4 p.m., after having flights canceled Saturday and Sunday because of Tropical Storm Irene.

"It's always nerve-racking to play the first match after a layoff in a major. It's not really my first choice at all," said Williams, who pulled out of recent tuneup tournaments because of a virus. "But I just tried to rely on experience and, I don't know, just tried to get after it. So I was pleased with the level."

In the day's last match, 16-time major winner Roger Federer beat 54th-ranked Santiago Giraldo of Colombia 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 to collect his 224th victory in Grand Slam play, tying Andre Agassi for second-most in the Open era.

"It doesn't need to be pretty. I don't think I've ever played my very, very best in the first round. It's always nice to be winning matches," said Federer,



who now trails only Jimmy Connors' career total of 233.

Other winners included No. 7 Gael Monfils; No. 8 Mardy Fish, who played his first U.S. Open match as the top-seeded American and beat Tobias Kamke 6-2, 6-2, 6-1; No. 9 Tomas Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon runner-up; No. 13 Richard Gasquet; No. 22 Alexandr Dolgoplov; and No. 27 Marin Cilic, who eliminated 19-year-old American Ryan Harrison 6-2, 7-5, 7-6 (6).

"This is extremely different for me," Fish said, "this feeling coming out here and trying to show everything you can, to show you're the No. 1 guy, at least for this tournament. It's been a lot of fun."

Advancing along with Sharapova to the second round were No. 2 Vera Zvonareva, a finalist last year at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open; 16-year-old Madison Keys of Boca Raton, Fla. - the youngest and, at 455th, lowest-ranked woman in the draw - who beat 37-year-old Jill Craybas 6-2, 6-4; and No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who beat her younger sister Urszula Radwanska 6-2, 6-3.

But surprise 2009 U.S. Open quarterfinalist Melanie Oudin of Marietta, Ga., lost 6-0, 7-6 (7) to Romina Oprandi of Italy, falling to 9-29 in 2011.

Sharapova was one of the seeded players Oudin stunned during her run two years ago, and for a little more than a set Monday, Watson seemed quite capable of registering another significant surprise.

Scrambling along the baseline to get to nearly every ball, Watson forced Sharapova to hit extra shots in order to win a point. And Sharapova, who said she wasn't able to practice enough over the weekend because of Tropical Storm Irene, kept missing.

FBI: Ex-NBA player Crittenton arrested in Calif.



SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Former NBA player Javaris Crittenton, who was suspended from the league for having guns in a locker room with teammate Gilbert Arenas, was arrested Monday in Southern California to face a murder charge in a deadly Atlanta shooting.

Crittenton was taken into custody at about 8 p.m. at John Wayne Airport in Orange County after checking in for a Delta Air Lines flight to Atlanta, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said.

Eimiller said he was arrested without incident by FBI agents with assistance from the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Authorities were trying to determine whether Crittenton will make an initial appearance in federal court, or be taken directly to Atlanta to face state charges there.

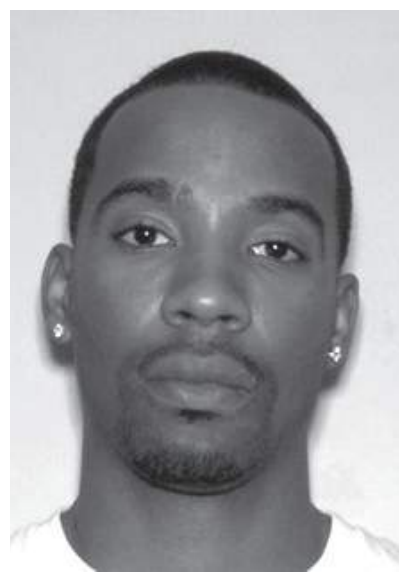
"He offered to turn himself in," lawyer Brian Steel told The Associated Press earlier Monday. "He's not guilty. We look forward to getting it to the courts."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution first reported that Crittenton planned to surrender in Atlanta.

Police earlier obtained a murder warrant for Crittenton in the Aug. 19 shooting of 22-year-old Jullian Jones, a mother of four young children. Police say Jones was walking with two men when she was shot and they believe one of the men with her was the target.

Police spokesman Carlos Campos on Friday said the motive appears to be retaliation for a robbery in April, in which Crittenton was a victim.

When asked about Steel's statement that Crittenton planned to surrender,



This photo released by the FBI on Monday Aug. 29, 2011 of Javaris Crittenton, age 23, of Fayetteville, Ga., who is wanted by the Atlanta Police Department on murder charges stemming from the August 19, 2011 fatal shooting of a 22-year-old woman, Julian Jones.

Atlanta police didn't confirm it.

"Mr. Crittenton is wanted for murder," Sgt. Curtis Davenport said late

"There's no doubt that I wasn't playing my best tennis," said Sharapova, who finished with a whopping 58 unforced errors, nearly twice as many as Watson. "She was smart in making me hit another ball. I was making so many errors out there. She stuck to her game plan; she kept grinding."

After taking the first set, Watson broke for a 1-0 lead in the second. That's when Sharapova began to turn things around, taking four games in a row. Watson didn't go away, though, getting within 4-3 when Sharapova double-faulted, then holding for 4-all with the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd supporting the underdog.

But a double-fault by Watson, and two huge return winners by Sharapova, helped the Russian break to end the second set. That sent the match to a third, and Sharapova's as good as it gets there.

"Maria's a fighter. She's never going to give up," said Watson, who got high-fives and autograph requests from fans as she left the court. "That's what makes her a champion. That's why she's won this tournament before."

Kvitova, in contrast, said that as she began to make mistakes, she started thinking negative thoughts. Asked why she was still struggling with that after winning Wimbledon, she said, "That's a good question, actually."

Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot to Heather Watson of Britain during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. AP

Monday. "We will be pleased when he is taken into our custody in a peaceful manner."

When he was with the Washington Wizards in December 2009, Crittenton and Arenas had a dispute over a card game on a team flight. Two days later, Arenas brought four guns to the locker room and set them in front of Crittenton's locker with a sign telling him to "PICK 1." Crittenton then took out his own gun.

Crittenton pleaded guilty in January 2010 to a misdemeanor gun charge and received a year of unsupervised probation. Arenas entered his guilty plea on Jan. 15. He served a short time in a halfway house.

Steel said he was retained by Crittenton's family on Monday morning, and was in contact with Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard and the FBI Fugitive Task Force to make arrangements for the former player's arrest.

"They asked that he come to Atlanta, and we said 'no problem,'" Steel said.

Crittenton is on the roster of the NBA developmental league's Dakota Wizards.

Sources: NBA, players to talk Wednesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Two people with knowledge of the plans say the lead negotiators for the NBA owners and players will meet Wednesday for just the second time since the lockout began.

Commissioner David Stern, deputy commissioner Adam Silver and San Antonio Spurs owner Peter Holt, who leads the labor relations committee, will take part, as will players' association executive director Billy Hunter and union president Derek Fisher of

the Lakers, two people told the Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity because the talks are supposed to be confidential.

The sides last met Aug. 1, exactly one month after the lockout was imposed. Stern was disappointed by the players' position and has said there must be progress by Labor Day. The sides remain far apart on numerous financial issues. Training camps are scheduled to start in October.

Victorino homer lifts Phillies over Reds



CINCINNATI

(AP)—Philadelphia's Shane Victorino rediscovered how to hit at just the right time, getting a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning that powered the Phillies to a 3-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds in the National League on Monday.

Victorino snapped an 0-for-11 slump with his homer off Reds pitcher Homer Bailey (7-6).

Philadelphia starter Cole Hamels made a solid return from injury, holding the Reds to two hits in six innings, and reliever Antonio Bastardo (6-0) struck out all three batters in his one inning of relief to take the win.

Ryan Madson gave up a hit in the ninth before finishing it off for his 24th save in 26 chances.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 1

In Phoenix, Arizona notched its seventh straight win, beating Colorado.

Diamondbacks starter Daniel Hudson (14-9) threw seven shutout innings and added an RBI double with the bat.

Ryan Roberts homered for Arizona, which has won 10 straight home games, and has allowed two runs or fewer in each game of the seven-game winning streak; one shy of the franchise record set in 2002.

Paul Goldschmidt, Miguel Montero and John McDonald all drove in a run during Arizona's four-run sixth inning against Rockies starter Alex White (1-1).

Cubs 7, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Chicago pitcher Randy Wells threw his first career complete game, shutting out San Francisco.

The Cubs hit four home runs—three off San Francisco ace Tim Lincecum—with Alfonso Soriano, Geovany Soto, Blake DeWitt and Carlos Pena all going deep for the visitors, who snapped a four-game losing skid.

It was the third time this season Chicago has had four or more home runs in one game. The Cubs have 38 home runs in August, most in the National League.

Lincecum (12-11) lasted six innings and took the loss, giving him a career-worst 11 in a season. The loss dropped the defending World Series champions five games behind first-place Arizona in the NL West.

Dodgers 4, Padres 1

In Los Angeles, Andre Ethier had three



Philadelphia Phillies' Shane Victorino, right, is congratulated by Wilson Valdez, left, after Victorino hit a tiebreaking, two-run home run off Cincinnati Reds pitcher Homer Bailey in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011, in Cincinnati.

hits and an RBI to lift Los Angeles over San Diego.

Ethier was back to his best after sitting out a game with a sore knee and James Loney hit a two-run homer for the Dodgers.

Los Angeles starter Clayton Kershaw (17-5) won for the ninth time in his past 10 starts, allowing one run and striking out five. He became the first Dodger to win 17 games since Chan Ho Park in 2000.

Padres starter Mat Latos (6-13) gave up four runs in six innings.

Mets 2, Marlins 1, 1st game Mets 5, Marlins 1, 2nd game

In New York, the hosts were back in action after Hurricane Irene, and won both games of a doubleheader against Florida.

R.A. Dickey shut down the sluggish Marlins in the opener, pitching seven spotless innings for his first win in over a month.

In the night game, Dillon Gee (12-5) rebounded from a wretched start to take the win. Mets starters had tossed 21 consecutive scoreless innings before Gee (12-5) gave up a home run in

the sixth.

New York's Jose Reyes scored a run and committed an error in his return from the disabled list.

Astros 7, Pirates 4

In Houston, Carlos Lee hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the seventh inning that lifted Houston over Pittsburgh.

Trailing 3-2 in the seventh, a fielder's choice grounder by J.D. Martinez tied the score and Lee extended his hitting streak to 10 games with a homer that put the Astros ahead for the first time.

Houston starter Wandy Rodriguez (10-9) struck out a career-high 13 and went seven innings.

Pirates reliever Jason Grilli (1-1) took the loss, giving up two runs in 1 1-3 innings.

Yankees 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Freddy Garcia returned from the disabled list to pitch six innings of two-hit ball and Nick Swisher homered as the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles to earn a split of the four-game series.

It was New York's second straight

win without third baseman Alex Rodriguez and shortstop Derek Jeter. Rodriguez will join the team in Boston on Tuesday after getting an MRI on his sore left thumb in New York, and Jeter rested a bruised right knee but was available "in case of an emergency," manager Joe Girardi said.

Mark Teixeira doubled in a run for the Yankees, who moved within 1 1/2 games of the first-place Red Sox in the AL East.

Mark Reynolds and J.J. Hardy homered for Baltimore, which was seeking to win a four-game series against New York for the first time since 1997.

Athletics 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Carlos Santana homered and David Huff and four relievers combined to limit the Athletics to five hits in Cleveland's win.

Huff (2-2) gave up three hits over six scoreless innings to win for the first time in six starts, since beating Minnesota in his season debut on July 18.

Santana hit his 20th homer to give Cleveland a 2-0 lead in the seventh inning against Brandon McCarthy (7-7),

who lost for the second time in nine starts since July 15. It was only the eighth homer allowed by the right-hander and seventh without a runner on base.

Royals 9, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Salvador Perez and Alcides Escobar hit back-to-back homers as Kansas City beat first-place Detroit.

Alex Gordon also homered and Johnny Giavotella added a bases-loaded double for the Royals, who came in 18 1/2 games behind Central Division leaders.

Luke Hochevar (9-10) ended a four-start winless streak. He gave up five runs on eight hits in seven innings.

Max Scherzer (13-8) allowed seven runs on 10 hits and a walk in three-plus innings to drop to 2-2 in August. Both losses were to the Royals.

Blue Jays 7, Rays 3

In Toronto, Jose Bautista hit his 38th home run and Ricky Romero won his sixth straight decision as Toronto beat Tampa Bay to avoid a four-game sweep.

Adam Lind added a two-run homer as Toronto snapped a season-high four-game losing streak and overcame a two-homer night from Rays designated hitter Johnny Damon.

Bautista tied Yankees outfielder Curtis Granderson for the major league lead in homers with a solo drive in the sixth that hit off the facing of the third deck in left.

Romero (13-9) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings.

White Sox 3, Twins 0

In Chicago, Mark Buehrle allowed just four hits into the eighth inning and Tyler Flowers drove in two runs as Chicago beat Minnesota.

The White Sox have won four straight and improved to two games above .500 for the first time since April 13. They also moved within five games of the AL Central-leading Detroit Tigers.

Buehrle (11-6) pitched around two walks in 7 2-3 innings and struck out four. He won his 159th game, tying him for sixth on the White Sox's all-time list.

Buehrle has allowed only one earned run in 30 2-3 innings this season against the Twins and has 27 wins in his career against Minnesota. He has more wins against the Twins than any other active pitcher has against a single opponent.



INDIANAPOLIS

(AP)—Peyton Manning is back. Whether he is ready to play is an open question.

The Colts activated Manning from the physically unable to perform list Monday. A few hours later, the four-time MVP pulled on his white No. 18 jersey and a helmet, and jogged onto the practice field, renewing hopes that he might actually play in the season-opener at Houston on Sept. 11 four months after neck surgery.

"That's kind of been my goal all along, trying to get better and I know everybody's into predictions and everybody wants to have the breaking news," an upbeat Manning said. "But I just can't give you any more than what I'm giving you."

What everyone wants to know, of course, is whether Manning will be ready. Nobody, including Manning, will say that yet and he said again that

Colts activate QB Peyton Manning

he won't play in Thursday night's pre-season finale at Cincinnati.

Clearly, though, Manning is getting closer. He acknowledged that he is healthy enough right now to take a snap or play a series to keep his consecutive-games streak intact but insists he won't.

"Like I said the other night, I have to be able to competitively play," he said. "I have too much respect for football. I've got to be able to compete and to help my team win, and that's what's fair to the team, fair to myself."

Manning has started 227 consecutive games, including the playoffs, the second-longest streak in NFL history for quarterbacks behind Brett Favre. Of all the numbers Manning has put up over the years, the streak is the one he has usually said means the most.

Manning had been on the PUP since the team's first training camp practice

on Aug. 1 following the May procedure to repair a nerve in his neck. The Colts were facing a Saturday deadline to make the move or Manning would have missed Indy's first six games.

Team officials issued a statement that said Manning would practice on a "scripted" and controlled basis. Coach Jim Caldwell did not elaborate on the plan.

"Obviously, he's been throwing, but nevertheless it's just going to be in a limited amount," Caldwell said. "I don't think it needs a whole lot of explanation, I don't believe. Scripted means that we kind of know exactly what he's going to do, prescribed by his rehab specialist and our medical team."

Manning hadn't been seen much at team headquarters, perhaps working out in private. He was at his play-

ful best on Monday, teasing reporters about their memories, poking fun at the circus-like environment surrounding his neck injury and suggesting that his close friend and center, Jeff Saturday, was tired of answering questions about him.

Team officials have said all along that Manning would practice only when doctors cleared him and when Manning felt comfortable, and he again declined to say specifically what was holding him back.

"I don't know what HIPAA stands for, but I believe in it and I practice it," Manning joked, referring to the federal law protecting medical privacy. "So, uh, I'll leave it at that."

The fact he has been activated is not only good news for Manning, his teammates and Colts' fans, but it also eased some concerns expressed by

Jim Irsay. Indy's team owner recently wrote on Twitter that the Colts should be prepared to start the season without Manning and later posted comments that prompted speculation he was trying to convince Favre to come out of retirement.

Instead, the Colts signed another retired quarterback in 16-year veteran Kerry Collins, who stood alongside Manning in a nationally televised loss to Super Bowl champion Green Bay last week.

"(hash)18 to the practice field! Soon the leaves will fall/I looked at sideline sat. night n saw \$30,000,000.00 standing there, my checkbook hurts!" Irsay wrote Monday. Manning signed a five-year, \$90 million contract deal in the offseason to stay in Indy.

The next big question is how the Colts will divvy up the snaps.

Manning insists he'll spend the next two weeks continuing the rehab and trying to get in sync with his teammates.

Two hole-in-one challenges in Docomo Classic

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A pair of roundtrip tickets to anywhere in the U.S. and \$25,000 in cash are the hole-in-one prizes at stake in the 2nd Annual Docomo Classic Golf Tournament, which tees off this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

The roundtrip tickets are sponsored by Delta Air Lines, while the \$25,000 cash is donated by Bank of Hawaii.

Docomo Pacific Saipan general manager James Nelson said net proceeds from the event will benefit the Marianas Tourism

Education Council, an organization focused on increasing awareness and supporting tourism-related programs benefiting students of the CNMI Public School System.

"We all understand that our economy is going through some very tough times, but we cannot stop investing in our youth. The net proceeds raised from this tournament is one way we can invest in our youth and in the only industry we have left—tourism. There is no mistaking the fact that tourism is everybody's business," he said.



Aside from the two hole-in-one prizes, champions will also be hailed in six flights, namely Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies.

The Top 3 place finishers for all six flights will receive \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively.

Closest to the pin side bets will also be offered along with numerous raffle prize during the awards ceremony to be held immediately following the event at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Nelson said a modified Calloway scoring system will be used in the tournament. The format is

an individual 18-hole tournament where a player's handicap is used to formulate his or her net score; the player's highest and lowest scores are discarded during this process.

Although, most on island tournaments use a different scoring system, Nelson said organizers stayed with the modified Calloway format after receiving positive feedback from last year's participants.

Early registration is strongly encouraged by 6pm on Friday, Sept. 2. But late entrants will be accepted on a "space-available" basis only.

Entry forms can be obtained at



ROSELYN B. MONROY

The west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort will play host to this Saturday's 2nd Annual Docomo Classic Golf Tournament.

CNMI

From Page 28

Uchel to third. However, the CNMI's defense showed up anew in the ensuing play, catching a fly ball from Anthony Blaluk at center field.

When it was the Commonwealth's turn at bat at the bottom of the night, Tenorio had a walk, while Jesus Iguel flied out to center. Next up for the CNMI was Keono Lizama, who singled to right field, allowing Tenorio to reach third base.

With only one out and run-

ners on second and third, Tyrone Omar stepped up to the plate and made it to first off a fielder's choice. Tenorio reached home plate of Omar's RBI.

With its debut victory, the CNMI is now in second place in the six-team field behind unbeaten Guam (2-0). Guam notched its second win after downing Fiji in the other game yesterday, 11-2. Fiji dropped to a 1-1 record for third place, followed by American Samoa (0-1), Palau (0-1), and New Caledonia (0-1).

Baseball games will continue today with the manager Tony Rogolifoi's wards taking on New

Caledonia in the second match at 1pm (12nn Saipan Time). In the first match at 9am, Palau will face American Samoa.

The CNMI sluggers were the first ones to compete in the Games, as the Commonwealth golfers, beach volleyball players, and athletics bets will not be seeing action in New Caledonia until this weekend.

Meanwhile, Tahiti won the first gold medal of the Games after its women's va'a (canoe) team topped the V6 500m race last Monday.

Tahiti's female paddlers also dominated the women's 1,500m

race, while its men's team swept the 500m and 1,500m events.

With Tahiti grabbing four gold medals in the va's competition, it took the early lead in the medal standings. As of 7pm yesterday, the 2011 Pacific Games website showed Tahiti with its 6-3-1 gold-silver-bronze haul. Host New Caledonia is in second place with its 2-2-1 tally, followed by Tonga (2-0-1), Fiji (1-1-1), Papua New Guinea (1-0-1), Samoa (0-3-4), Guam (0-2-1), and Solomon Islands (0-0-1). In all, 296 gold medals are up for grabs in the 15-day competition.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

of Dick Guintu and Oh In Sook, Mario Diola and Hannah Choi, and Gary Bandoja and Kim Boranah. Saul Gargallo and Marlene Pereja will represent Dberks, while Shirley's BC and Taga will have the pairs of Puy Macario and Annette Ta and Ed and Nona Salas, respectively. Others in the field are the teams of Lito Mendoza and Anna Alvarez, Roger Vales and Babes Cielo, Jojo Savellano and June Padua, Alvin Alvarez and Cheng Saturno, Vic Reyes and Annarose Omori, and Robert Reyes and Elma Labuson.

Dberks has the most teams

in the Class B with three—Jojo and Jen Savellano, Erik Pena and Cielo, and Vales and Marylyn Montano. Joining them are Saipan Badminton Club's Bandoja and Sook and Oh Inbog and Toshiko Obata, Taga's Ariel Mariano and Cristy Vilalfor and Rodwealth Espana and Elna Curate, Rick Brien and Padua, Alvin Alvarez and Emily Vargas, Glenn Bultjenns and Wendy Fernandez, Chris Hilario and Ta, Sam Jones and Cris Obaldo, and Aries Cordero and Jaja Samonte.

The centerpiece Class A will feature eight pairs. The list includes Guintu and Choi, Diola and Obata, Macoi Aguda and Pereja, Ferdie Arago and Lanie Bartolome, Andrew Galvez and

Angie Ito, Hapi Gabriel and Malou Malasarte, Gerry Hibi and Lucille Lampera, and Edwin Montoya and Cheng Saturno.

Guintu will also play in the Class Lower A and this time will be teaming up with Obata. Completing the field are Bandoja and Choi, Galvez and Merlie Tolentino, Espana and Ito, Aguda and Lot Abuel, Arago and Annette Quiambao, Robert Reyes and Malasarte, and Joseph Santos, and Lampera.

The Class C has Joel Ortega and Boranah, Luis Camacho and Rose Lazaro, Panapa Peteru and Lanie Santos, Eydie Uy and Malou Mendoza, Kanata Omori and Jeralyn Castillo, Jerome Malasarte and Fernandez, and Brandon Talania and Cris

Obaldo. Four other are entered in Class C.

The U18 division will be a three-team fight among the tandems of Manatsu Omori and Jen Savellano, Kanata Omori and Miki Vargas, and Ezekiel Macario and Cris Obaldo.

Meeting tonight

Meanwhile, each club is requested to send a representative in tonight's meeting at 7pm at the TSL Sports Complex.

Games in the Shirley's Classic will be played on weekends.

The number of entries per category, groupings, rules, opening ceremony, umpires and line judges, and other important matters about the competition will be discussed at the meeting.

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were joined by five visiting players from Japan's Thomas Soccer School.

With the clinic's participants sitting at the grass field, Miura wowed the youth strikers with his ball juggling skills. Miura juggled the ball using his left and right foot and then brought the leather to his back and arms. He also showed youth strikers how to use the head in juggling the ball.

At the pitch, the 17-year Japanese pro demonstrated effective ways of kicking the ball. On several occasions, he kicked the ball hard and straight just a few feet away from mid-court and the leather landed perfectly near the penalty box.

His accurate kicks drew loud cheers from the crowd.

After the skills demonstration, Miura, with his assistant, Ryota Otomo, allowed youth strikers to play in a five-minute scrimmage with the two visitors serving as referees. Then after the clinic, Miura gathered the players together and gave them inspirational messages.

"Like you, I also started playing soccer when I was about 7. I kept on playing and enjoying the game. I practiced hard and eventually I became a national player of Japan," Miura said through interpreter and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association coach and technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi.

"Some of you are good players so keep it up. I hope I can come here again and stay longer so I can teach you more skills,"

Miura added.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan was also present during the clinic and in behalf of the youth players, thanked Miura for the opportunity to learn the sport from a professional.

"It's very rare that we get to invite a pro player and national team member from Japan, one of the best soccer nations in the world and the best in Asia. Our players, especially the younger ones, got to witness how a great player plays and this inspires them to work harder on their games so that someday they will become national or pro players, too," Tan said.

Tan added that NMIFA will always find ways to bring experts here so they can share their knowledge of the sport to local players and coaches.

For his part, NMIFA general

secretary Ed Salas thanked the Japan Football Association and Sekiguchi for making the clinic happen.

"JFA has always been there to help us, sending coaches and players to hold seminars here," Salas said. The clinic had a great turnout with the participation of all the clubs. All the kids seemed to enjoy it, especially after seeing some tricks from Mr. Miura."

"It was cool. He showed us some techniques and we love seeing him kick and juggle the ball," Tan Holding's U10 player Edward Cho said.

After the clinic, Miura teamed up with selected players from NMIFA's men's league and together they battled the CNMI Men's National Team in a friendly one-hour match. The CNMI strikers won, 3-1.

FITIAL

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needs a lot of new facilities to host the competition.

Each nation will be given 30 minutes to present their bids during the morning session of the general assembly and the winner will be announced in the afternoon. A bidding nation must get at least 12 votes in the first round of selection to gain the majority and win the hosting rights outright. If no nation has

the majority, a second round of voting will take place between the Top 2 vote-getters.

The CNMI has never hosted the Mini Games and members of the bid committee and local sports officials are hoping PGAs will give the Commonwealth the chance to bring the Games here in 2017. Having adequate facilities is also a deciding factor in the Mini Games and the CNMI made the grade based on the evaluation report of Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
MLB STANDINGS	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
East Division	
	W L Pct GB
Boston	82 51 .617 —
New York	80 52 .606 1 1/2
Tampa Bay	73 60 .549 9
Toronto	67 67 .500 15 1/2
Baltimore	53 79 .402 28 1/2
Central Division	
Detroit	73 61 .545 —
Chicago	67 65 .508 5
Cleveland	66 65 .504 5 1/2
Minnesota	56 78 .418 17
Kansas City	56 79 .415 17 1/2
West Division	
Texas	76 59 .563 —
Los Angeles	72 62 .537 3 1/2
Oakland	60 74 .448 15 1/2
Seattle	57 76 .429 18
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
East Division	
Philadelphia	84 46 .646 —
Atlanta	79 54 .594 6 1/2
New York	64 68 .485 21
Washington	62 70 .470 23
Florida	59 74 .444 26 1/2
Central Division	
Milwaukee	81 54 .600 —
St. Louis	70 64 .522 10 1/2
Cincinnati	67 67 .500 13 1/2
Pittsburgh	62 72 .463 18 1/2
Chicago	58 77 .430 23
Houston	45 90 .333 36
West Division	
Arizona	76 59 .563 —
San Francisco	71 64 .526 5
Colorado	64 71 .474 12
Los Angeles	63 70 .474 12
San Diego	60 75 .444 16
Yesterday's Games	
N.Y. Mets 2, Florida 1st game	
N.Y. Mets 5, Florida 2nd game	
Philadelphia 3, Cincinnati 2	
Houston 7, Pittsburgh 4	
Arizona 5, Colorado 1	
L.A. Dodgers 4, San Diego 1	
Chicago Cubs 7, San Francisco 0	
Kansas City 9, Detroit 5	
N.Y. Yankees 3, Baltimore 2	
Cleveland 2, Oakland 1	
Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 3	
Chicago White Sox 3, Minnesota 0	
Seattle 5, L.A. Angels 3	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

2011 Pacific Games Opening

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Some members of the CNMI Baseball Team pose for a group photo before heading to the venue for the opening ceremonies of the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.



Fiji athletes are all smiles as they join the parade of nations.



Tuvalu athletes wave to the crowd during the parade of teams.



Guam athletes and officials take their turn in the parade of nations.



Joemy, the 2011 Pacific Games mascot, joins other performers in the opening ceremonies.



CNMI Baseball Team manager Tony Rogolifo waits for the start of the technical meeting



Athletes from Tahiti gesture to the crowd.



A female dancer performs during the opening ceremonies for the 2011 Pacific Games.



A New Caledonia dancer performs during the opening ceremonies.



New Caledonia swimmer Diane Bui Duyet lights the torch, signaling the start of the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Sharapova,
Venus win;
Kvitova loses
at Open

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Victorino
homer lifts
Phillies
over Reds

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28 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI nips Palau in extra innings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sweet revenge.
The CNMI escaped with a 1-0 win in its early rematch against Palau, surviving a nine-inning debut in the 2011 Pacific Games yesterday at the Baseball Mont-Dore in Mont-Dore, New Caledonia.

The victory avenged the Commonwealth's 3-7 loss to Palau in the gold medal game of the 2010 Micronesian Games.

Eric Tenorio scored the winning run for the CNMI at the bottom of the ninth inning, while pitcher Joshua Jones was steady on the mound, recording 14 strikeouts and allowing only four hits in a complete game shutout.

With Jones in his usual form and the CNMI defense holding on, Palau went scoreless and was limited to three hits after eight innings.

Then at the top of the ninth, two quick fly outs from Avery Amos and Reagan Sidosi doomed Palau's chances to break into the scoreboard. Third batter Melngis Uchel walked and moved to second off a CNMI throwing error to stay alive. Palau then was one step away from reaching home plate when Rodrick Blangco singled and drove

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The CNMI's Josh Jones, seen here pitching in the 2010 Micronesian Games, allowed only four hits in their 1-0 win over Palau yesterday in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fitial leaves for Noumea to press CNMI Mini Games bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be leaving for New Caledonia today to lead the CNMI's bid presentation for the 2017 Mini Games.

"As chief executive of the CNMI, Gov. Fitial will be delivering the opening remarks for the CNMI's bid presentation," press secretary Angel Demapan said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Joining Fitial in New Caledonia are other members of the bid committee, including Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White. The governor is expected to arrive in New Caledonia tomorrow or three days before the 22 member-nations of the Pacific Games Association decide the host of the 2017 Mini Games.

"Given that the Pacific Mini Games has never been

held in the CNMI, the Fitial administration is pleased to support this bid as we seek to further diversify our growing sports community in the Commonwealth. Moreover, with an expected crowd upwards of 2,000 people—to include players, coaches, families, fans, and international media representatives—the Games are expected to give our economy a much needed shot in the arm. It will also give us a chance to showcase the beauty of our islands, our people's athletic prowess, and our warm island hospitality," Demapan said.

Aside from the CNMI, two other countries are bidding for the hosting rights of the quadrennial event—Vanuatu and Nauru. Vanuatu is the Commonwealth's closest rival as it had already hosted the Mini Games before, while Nauru is a long shot in the race, as it

See FITAL on Page 26



Fitial

Shirley's Badminton Classic kicks off Sept. 3



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gary Bandoja, seen here reaching for the shuttlecock in a local tournament in June this year, will be among the players competing in this weekend's Shirley's Badminton Classic at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Badminton Association has added another signature event in its annual calendar of activities via the Shirley's Badminton Classic.

The competition, sponsored by Shirley's Coffee Shop, will be a mixed doubles contest

and will be open to six divisions: Classes A, B and C, U12, U18, and 40-and-above. It will open on Sept. 3 at the TSL Sports Complex.

So far 57 pairs have already registered for the Shirley's Classic with the 40-and-above and Class B drawing the most participants with 13 each.

In the 40-and-above division, Saipan Badminton Club has three entries in the tandems

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

Over 60 join Japanese pro clinic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The brief clinic of former Japan National Team member and pro striker Atsuhiko Miura was a hit with more than 60 youth players attending the event at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Monday.

U10 and U12 strikers from Paire Football Club, Shirley's FC, Matansa FC, MP United FC, Independents FC, and Tan Holdings FC participated in the clinic that lasted for more than an hour. The younger age group joined the first session, followed by the U12 strikers.

In each session, players were divided into three groups. They were ushered to the field and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Japan National Team member and pro striker Atsuhiko Miura demonstrates kicking skills during a clinic last Monday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.